Did you know that more than **100 million children call the streets their home**? 30 million of these precious children live in Africa, and around 10,000 are found in Uganda alone.

**It is not right. It is not acceptable. It cannot continue.**

At Dwelling Places and Dwelling Places UK, we are **always standing** for street connected children. Will you join us?

*Thursday 12th April 2018 is the International Day for Street Children.* Thousands of people around the world will use this day to stand with these children and remember the work of charities, governments and individuals who are seeking to change this shocking statistic for good.

Dwelling Places is a non-governmental organisation dedicated to the rescue and rehabilitation of street children, abandoned babies & high-risk slum families in Uganda. At Dwelling Places and Dwelling Places UK we are **always standing** for street connected children. Will you join us? We are delighted to offer you this **IDSC-Kit** to help you raise awareness of the issues faced by street connected children around the world, and how you can get involved and be part of the solution.

Use this **IDSC-Kit** with children **aged 12-18 years** in schools, churches, community groups, and even at home.
How to use this kit

We are delighted to offer you this International Day for Street Children-Kit for children aged 12-18 years.

The IDSC Kit aims to provide you with all the resources and direction requires in order to teach a lesson about street children and the IDSC.

It initially provides some background information about the IDSC for you as the teacher/group leader to be aware of. It then moves on to teachable content. Pages 5 & 6 provide information on street children and rights and responsibilities to be explained to the group you are leading. It then moves to a video and discussion section. Page 8 provides information on Dwelling Places for you to outline to your group. There are activity sheets included for younger teens. The lesson then moves to group discussion based activities. There are online videos and discussion questions on page 9, and then a series of ‘in our shoes’ discussion scenarios for groups. The lesson ends with time to ‘Make a Pledge’ to stand with street children. An answer sheet and information on how to get further involved are included at the end.

PRINT

✓ activity sheet for younger teens on page 8 - one per teen
✓ the discussion activities on pages 10-14 one story per group

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We would love to hear from you if you use this IDSC-Kit.

Please send feedback, photos, suggestions etc to Lauren at admin@dwellingplaces.org.uk
**What is the International Day for Street Children?**

IDSC is an initiative by the Consortium for Street Children (CSC), the leading international network dedicated to realising the rights of street children. The CSC was set up by NGOs around the world to amplify the voices of street children, promote their rights and improve their lives. The CSC now has a network of members in over 130 countries including small charities, large international NGOs, global corporations, academics and affiliated groups of street children. Marked on the 12th April every year, IDSC celebrates the lives of vulnerable children and recognises the projects they are part of. In particular, the CSC and its 80 members in over 130 countries use the day to encourage support for street children and to promote change.

In 2017, the CSC celebrated a landmark victory for street connected children around the world – the release of the UN General Comment on Children in Street Situations. This ground breaking legislation is the world’s first piece of authoritative guidance on street connected children. For IDSC 2018 they are calling upon governments around the world to ‘Turn Words into Reality’ by taking the necessary steps to implement the general comment. The General Comment is a powerful tool for change, and if implemented fully would unequivocally mean that the dream of equality for street connected children would become a reality. The CSC have broken down the lengthy provisions in the general comment into 4 easy steps:

1. **Commit to equality** – Recognise that street-connected children have the same rights as everyone else and reflect this in the law.
2. **Protect every child**- protect street-connected children from violence and abuse and ensure children have access to justice when they are harmed.
3. **Provide access to services**- Enable access to the same essential services as every other child, such as hospitals and schools, so they can reach their potential
4. **Create new solutions**- Deliver specialized services and opportunities that tune into the unique challenges of life for street-connected children.

Please visit the CSC’s website [www.streetchildrenday.org](http://www.streetchildrenday.org) to find out more information.

**Equality for Street Children starts here.**

**Let’s make it happen.**
Street Children FAQs

Who are street children?

Commonly, there are 2 types of street children:

1. Full-time street children are found on the streets all day and all night, finding shelter wherever they can, for example up trees, in shop doorways, or in dirty sewers
2. Part-time street children are found on the streets during the day and have a place to go at night, usually into a slum area

How many are there in the world?

UNICEF estimates that there are about 100 million (100,000,000) street children. However, it’s difficult to know the exact number.

Which countries are they found in?

Sadly, homeless children can be found in many countries around the world. The highest numbers of street children are in developing countries.

Why do children have to live on the streets?

There are lots of reasons, for example

- Death or illness of a parent(s)
- Family breakdown (e.g. parents splitting up)
- Armed conflict (e.g. different groups of people at war with each other)
- Poverty (e.g. not having food, money, a house)
- Natural disasters (e.g. floods)
- Famine or drought (e.g. not enough food grown, no rain to help crops grow or give water to drink)
- Neglect, abuse or abandonment (e.g. children not being looked after well)

Do they live by themselves?

Some come to the streets alone, but they often find other street children and form a ‘gang’.

Some are with other relatives: brothers, sisters or cousins for example.

Some are with their parents.

How do they survive?

The children do whatever they can to earn money and survive on the streets, for example

- Begging
- Collecting old water bottles to sell for recycling
- Stealing
- Going through rubbish bins to find food
- Any tasks which will earn them money

As you can imagine there are lots of dangers, for example

- Hunger
- Violence
- Abuse
- Trafficking (being taken away like modern slaves)
- Abduction
- Poor health
- And many more
Rights

- Being a responsible citizen means that you must be aware of your RIGHTS and RESPONSIBILITIES.

- We live in a more and more interconnected world. This means that the way you live does not only impact upon people who live close to you, but your actions may have consequences for people and communities locally, nationally and internationally. Therefore part of being a responsible citizen is recognising that you are also a global citizen.

- What is a right? ‘Rights’ are things every child should have and be able to do. All children have the same rights.

Your rights as a Child

In 1989, governments across the world promised all children the same rights by adopting the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC). Almost every country has agreed to these rights. This gives every child the right to:

- Survival
- Development
- Protection from harm
- To participate in decisions which affect your lives.

Street Children’s Rights

These are some of the rights set out in the UNCRC.

Article 24: You have the right to the best health care possible, safe water to drink, nutritious food, a clean and safe environment, and information to help you stay well.

Article 27: You have the right to food, clothing, a safe place to live and to have your basic needs met. You should not be disadvantaged so that you can’t do many of the things other kids can do.

- Street children do and should have the same rights as every child in the world, however, sadly their rights are not always protected or met.

- They often experience violence, they do not have a safe place to stay, and they have little access to food, clothing or education.

- The International Day for Street Children (IDSC) gives voice to street children, and demands that governments should do more to help street children whose rights are not being protected. Organisations like the CSC work with governments and the UN to change laws so that street children can have the same rights as you.
Welcome to Dwelling Places

Dwelling Places was started in August 2002, by a Ugandan lady called Rita Nkemba

Dwelling Places’ aim is to:

✓ rescue and change the lives of street children and their families
✓ speak out for children at risk so that Ugandans can help change their own communities

The charity follows a holistic 4-Rs programme to:

RESCUE children from the streets and slums

✓ visits by Dwelling Places’ team
✓ health care by Nurses
✓ getting to know the children and their stories

REHABILITATE

✓ in the Transitional Rehabilitation Home (TRH) – former street children are taken care of and have their needs met
✓ catch up education is provided so the children can catch up on any school they have missed
✓ the children are able to talk to someone about the things that have happened in their lives

RECONCILE

✓ Dwelling Places’ team will try to help the children find any family they may have
✓ They work with the families to help with any problems they face and empower them to care for their children
✓ They help and support the children to spend time with their family

RESETTLE

✓ Dwelling Places’ team help the families they work with find a safe place to live
✓ They help the children resettle into their home and attend school
✓ They conduct regular visits to help and support the family
Dwelling Places in Action

1. Dwelling Places is a charity working in which country?  

2. What is the name of the capital city of this country?  

3. Which continent can this country be found in?  

4. Draw arrows to point to the UK and the continent where Dwelling Places is based.  

5. Dwelling Places follow a programme known as the 4 Rs when they are working with the street children. Can you name these and put the steps into the correct order?  
   a. Res____le  
   b. Rec____le  
   c. Re____e  
   d. Re____b____e  

   In the correct order these steps are …  
   1.  
   2.  
   3.  
   4.  

6. Imagine you have been rescued from the streets and now have a safe place to live. Describe how you might feel…
Short Films and Discussion

A short film about street children and the IDSC called ‘In their own voices’ can be viewed here: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BCd3fmXQOy4

Another short film about Dwelling Places and its work can also be viewed here: https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=2&v=1uWVmA77NjE

Following viewing the two films, a short discussion can be held, either in groups or as a class, about how the films made pupils feel and why.

Discussion Questions

1. How did the films make you feel and why?

2. How are the rights of street children being violated?

3. What do you imagine are the greatest challenges faced by street children like Deepak in their day to day lives?

4. What are some of these organisations, and Dwelling Places doing to try to uphold and protect the rights of street children?

5. What does home mean to you?

6. What are some practical things you as young people could do to make a difference and raise awareness of this problem?
In Our Shoes: Discussion activities for groups

Story one

Your family has always lived in the north of Uganda, even as far back as your great-great-grandfather. You vaguely remember living there and that it was a lovely place.

You remember when you were 7 years old and the rebel soldiers attacked your village. Your mother was killed and your family fled to the capital city, Kampala.

Your father got a job as a hotel porter. He earns enough to buy food and pay the rent. Things are not easy but you are surviving.

However, your youngest brother, Logono has fallen sick and there isn’t enough money for medicine.

At 12 years old, you’re the oldest child so you need to do something to help. You’ve looked for work in the form of carrying bags at the market and sweeping the streets but there isn’t anything. You stopped school when you fled from your home so you don’t have any qualifications.

Your father asks if you would beg on the streets for money to buy medicine.

How do you feel about this? Why?
What do you do?
**Story two**

Your parents contracted HIV. At first they were too afraid to get tested because of the discrimination faced by those living with HIV. They eventually went for testing but the virus had developed into AIDS. They have both since died and you’ve been orphaned.

Your community has kicked you out because they fear that you too may have the virus.

You meet a lady who lives in a shack in a slum called Katwe in Kampala, the capital city. She kindly offers to share the shack with you and your two younger siblings.

**How do you feel?**

**What do you think some of the struggles of living in a slum may be?**

**How are you going to afford to look after your younger siblings?**
In Our Shoes: Discussion activities for groups

Story three

Your father is a farmer. So was your grandfather, and your great-grandfather.

Farmers rely on the rains coming every year but each year the rains are a little bit less and this year the harvest has been a disaster!

Your worst fear has come true - it is now impossible to live.

You pack up and head into the capital city, Kampala, with your family. Your father tries to get a job but he has no other skills except farming and so he can’t find work.

You and your siblings have no option but to beg on the streets.

How do you think your father feels about...

- Leaving his home?
- Going to the city?
- Sending his children out to beg?

How do you feel? Why?

What would change the situation?
In Our Shoes: Discussion activities for groups

**Story four**

Your mother dies and your father remarries. Your stepmother doesn’t seem to understand that you miss your mother and are still hurting. Even worse, she treats you like a servant. She makes you prepare and cook all the food, sweep and clean the house and has recently started beating you for no reason. You think your father knows what’s happening but he’s not doing anything to stop it.

Every day, lorries leave your town to go into the city. You manage to get a lift on one. When you arrive in the city you realise you know no-one.

You spend your first night sleeping on the streets. You spend your second night sleeping up a tree because you saw other children do that and it makes you feel a little safer.

You are dirty, hungry, tired and scared. Other teenagers are sniffing fuel and it seems to make them forget about their troubles so you try it. You hate it at first but it does make you forget.

You have to scavenge for food in dustbins and tips but are thankful when you find anything remotely edible. You start to make friends and feel like you are again part of a family.

After 3 years, you’re taken into a home for street children. You’re now safe, you have a bed, food and people care for you but you run away back to the streets.

**Why would you run away again?**

**What could be done to help you?**
In Our Shoes: Discussion activities for groups

Story five

You are a family living in the countryside in Uganda. You have a small plot of land and a cow. Your family consists of your mother, father, two sons and two daughters.

Each year you need to grow 300,000 shillings worth of food to survive. It costs 70,000 shillings to send each child to school.

Year One

The rains came and the harvest is worth 400,000 shillings – you made an extra 100,000 shillings – it was a good year! There is enough food and seed left over to plant for next year. There’s even enough money for some new clothes – 1 t-shirt & jumper per child!

Mother asks that the oldest son, Hamza, be sent to school. This would mean the loss of money since Hamza won’t be working on the land, plus the cost of school fees. So, if the harvest is the same as this year, you’d finish with an extra 30,000 shillings.

Why would it be good for Hamza to go to school?

How do you feel about your mother’s suggestion?

Year Two

The harvest is still fairly good at 400,000 shillings. But, the cow is sick so there’s no milk and no useable dung for fuel. This means there’s an additional cost of 50,000 shillings for milk and 10,000 shillings for fuel, plus the 70,000 shillings if you sent Hamza to school.

The cost of a vet to treat the cow would be 45,000 shillings.

If you don’t treat the cow you end the year with just enough food to use as seeds for next year.

If you do treat the cow you are 75,000 shillings short.

You could...

a) Take out a loan at 200% interest – what would that mean?
b) Sell part of your land – what would that mean?
c) Not treat the cow – what would that mean?

What do you do and why?
**Answer sheet**

1) Uganda
2) Kampala
3) Africa
5) a) resettle
   b) reconcile
   c) rescue
   d) rehabilitate

In the correct order: 1) rescue  2) rehabilitate  3) reconcile  4) resettle
Get Involved

We hope you have learnt a lot about street children and the work of Dwelling Places. Perhaps you would like to do something to help? Could you host a coffee morning for Dwelling Places?

Did you know that just £3 – the price of cup of coffee – could send a child in Karamoja to school for a year?

As a way to mark the International Day for Street Children, at DPUK we ask our friends and supporters to consider hosting a coffee morning for Dwelling Places. Could you organise this within your school or group sometime on or around the 12th April? All funds raised will go towards ensuring that former street connected children are able to access education and pursue their dreams.

If you are unable to host an event but would still like to give towards our IDSC appeal, please visit www.dwellingplaces.org/international-day-for-street-children

If you would like to find out more information about the International Day for Street Children or the work of Dwelling Places, or you would like to get involved in any other capacity please get in touch. We would love to hear from you!

Equality for Street Children starts here.

Let’s make it happen.