

RWANDAN STUDENTS' STATEMENT ON ROAD SAFETY

NO MORE ROAD CRASHES AMONG STUDENTS



Globally, road crashes are the leading killer of young people aged 5-29 years. Every single day, 1000 die due to road crashes worldwide, many more are seriously injured. According to the World Health Organization, 90% of all road traffic injuries happen in low-and-middle income countries.

We, Rwandan students, are saying **“no more”** to road deaths and serious injuries among young people. We come from different schools from all parts of our country. Every single week, we hear bad news that one of our colleagues' students got injured or killed due to a road crash. Surprisingly, students are often blamed for getting killed or injured. Is it their fault that the roads they walk on are not safe? **It is time to stop blaming us, and start protecting us.** We want to be part of the solution to address this global road safety crisis and do our part.

Some of us lost friends. Every time we lose a loved one, we realize ourselves that road crashes have multiple causes. The 'mobility system' is failing us. We face poorly designed roads, high-speed vehicles, drunk drivers and unsafe school zones. We, the students from 21 different health clubs, are demanding serious road safety action. Not next year, not next month, but now.

We have seen successful campaigns in different schools like “Gerayo Amahoro” that decrease road crashes by 17% in one year. Imagine a 'safe school zone' around every school; A safe school zone where no cars are speeding, students can walk safely on raised pavement, with safe crossings and a road safety curriculum. **Today, we are claiming our space, so that we are the last generation facing these horrible road crashes in our country.**

THE REALITIES WE FACE



Together with key stakeholders and different NGOs advocating for safer mobility for students, Rwanda has made some road safety progress in the past. For Example, in 2019 the Rwanda National Police and NGOs took the initiative of raising awareness on road safety around all provinces of the country. Due to these types of actions, road traffic deaths and injuries decreased. However, despite the progress made, there are still challenges that we have to face:



Lack of education and awareness

Most of us start our journey of studying without any knowledge on how and when to cross roads. Road safety is not part of our school program and students are not aware of the risks they face on the roads.



Lack of post-crash skills

When it comes to the matter of saving lives after a road crash, **every second counts**. Most victims die in the first hour because of a lack of trained people that can save her/his life.

We, the students, are not trained to give first aid after a crash.



Lack of Safe school zone around some schools

Every day, students are sharing the road with motorized transport. Speeding vehicles make us feel unsafe. The lack of raised pavements and safe pedestrian crossings are major problems that increase the risk of getting involved in a road crashes.

WHAT WE DEMAND



Ministry of Education

We demand the Ministry of Education to put a road safety curriculum in Primary and Secondary Schools so that every student can get the necessary information on how they can be safe on the road.



Ministry of Infrastructure

We demand the Ministry of Infrastructure to design safe school zones with a minimum of 3 stars. We particularly want lower speed limits (30km/h) and create safe spaces to walk and play. Roads should not be there to kill dreams of young people but rather accomplish it.



Rwanda National Police

We demand the Rwanda National Police to enforce the speed limits around our schools and get drunk drivers off our roads. In addition, we encourage them to keep organizing national road safety awareness campaigns together with other key stakeholders, as we saw positive results after the previous campaign.

WHAT WE WILL DO



3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING



SDG 3: Health (target 3.6)

- Advocate for better post crash care as most people die 1 hour after a road crash known as Golden Hour.
- Calling for a new country target to halve road deaths and injuries by 2030. We want to contribute to the efforts of our country to take the lead to achieve this target of Decade of Action for Road Safety 2021-2030.

4 QUALITY EDUCATION



SDG 4: Education

- Advocate to the Ministry of Health to include a road safety curriculum in Primary and Secondary Schools as well.
- Organize a national campaign that aims to raise awareness on road safety among the community living in 4 Province plus Kigali City together with other Stakeholders.

HOPE FOR THE FUTURE

We appreciate the efforts the Rwandan Government has made to make roads safer for all. Rwanda always takes the lead and together, we can accomplish great things for our people. Though we highlight different challenges, **we believe in the power of young people**. We are working really hard, more than ever, to find solutions to our challenges, including the global road safety crisis. Since the Stockholm declaration, we have formed coalitions that gather young people from many countries, including Rwanda. For example, we are a member of the Global Youth Coalition for Road Safety and Unite 2030. All are working together to halve road traffic deaths and serious injuries by 2030 and meaningfully engage with young people. **Let's stand together and call for streets for life, where young people can travel safely, while breathing clean air.**



Member of:

