

Promoting Girls' Rights and Education

The Women's Department has been actively working to ensure girls' rights and to promote education for all girls. One young woman, Evelyne, is a great example of the ways the Women's Department is helping young women to be empowered and successful.

Evelyne first connected with the KELC women's work through a seminar held in her congregation in Naserian Mission. In the seminar, she learned about girls' rights, the importance of education, and support networks available to women and girls in Kenya. After a couple of weeks, Evelyne needed to access those support networks when her father informed her that he had arranged for her to marry an older man in their community. Evelyne was only 14 years old. She wanted to continue her education, and she did not want to be married. If she refused to be married, she would have to leave her home and her community.

Evelyne called many people looking for help to escape this situation. No one could help. Eventually she was able to contact Alice Mwangi, the KELC Women's Department coordinator. Alice immediately sprang into action and found a way to remove Evelyne from her home and found a safe place for her to stay. With help from many people within the KELC women's network, Evelyne was welcomed into the home of a family near Mombasa, and within a few months, she was admitted into a secondary school in Kilifi County.

Now Evelyne is in her last year of secondary school. She has been selected as Head Girl and her teachers praise her for her hard work and good scores. Evelyne is hoping to continue her education by going to university to study Accounting.

Evelyne has also been welcomed back into her family home. After refusing her arranged marriage, she was barred from her home. Over several years, and with intervention and counseling from KELC leaders and community elders, Evelyne's father has accepted her decision to pursue education instead of marriage. At the end of last year Evelyne's father invited her home, where he gave her a blessing for her future and success in her schooling.

We thank God for Evelyne's strength and success and we pray for equity and justice for all girls in Kenya and around the world.



Evelyne in her school uniform at her secondary school in Kilifi County



Evelyne receiving a blessing from her father.



Evelyne (second from left), with her sister (far left), representatives from the KELC Women's Committee, and Evelyne's father.

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