



7 Rina was the highest achieving student last year. "At school I pay attention to the teachers when they explain material and I make notes if there's something very important. Before I go to sleep, I read my notes."

She's been awarded leadership opportunities and attended youth conferences in other cities. "If I'm selected for these activities, it means that there is strength in me."

Although her parents graduated from high school, they don't earn much money. Once she looked after her siblings when her parents had to work in another city for three months. "I was afraid, but I tried to encourage myself to be courageous."

Rina dreams of studying at university and using her knowledge to serve other people.

Rina (17), student radio presenter, Indonesia

“ Around here I see so many children dropping out of school early, ending up working on the streets of Lezha, or doing hard jobs like in construction and receiving only very little money, sometimes not even enough to buy a piece of bread to eat. What breaks my heart is that employers exploit and mistreat children routinely, offering them only strenuous jobs at very low pay. Children can't raise their voices about it because nobody cares about them. Even their parents mostly don't do anything because they need the meagre money they earn. This tragedy really shocked me to seriously search for something that can be done to change this tragic pattern. **”**

Denise (17), one of the flash mob organisers, Albania



Translation: Is there someone who protects?



There is a popular saying in Kosovo that I like a lot and it's my motto for life: 'To have goodness and not revenge, to have feelings and not violence.' There's a lot of peace in my heart and I want to share it with all children in the world, regardless of their ethnicity.

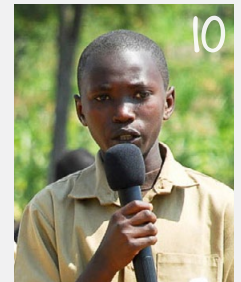
"We have our own song in our Kids for Peace club. My favourite part is when we all say 'peace forever'— it gives me the inspiration and courage that I can do anything I dream of. My dream is to start an organisation that will promote and facilitate peace all around the world. I want my country, Kosovo, and all its children to know peace without violence. **”**

Adem (14), Kids for Peace club member, Kosovo



"... I strongly believe every child has a right to education, health care, rights to play, get food, shelter and safe water. We decided to work with World Vision because we live in this community and we are always the first people to know when other children are mistreated."

Raphael (12), leader of a child action group in Rwanda



"We were shocked by Raphael's intelligence. He explained their initiative confidently. It was their group's own idea. They outlined challenges faced by some of the children in their village and wanted to work as a team to identify those children. They wanted partnership."

Denis Bideri, World Vision development manager, Rwanda

"I'm surprised when I see Raphael engage and speak to older people about child rights. Sometimes I wonder where he gets all this information and confidence!"

Raphael's mother, Rwanda

“ All these issues seemed normal to me and my friends until we were given training on child rights and abuse. After the training I realised that what had seemed right was actually wrong! I was the first to become a member of our Child Parliament. **”**

"Our involvement has changed attitudes in our community. These days no one openly violates child rights or promotes harmful traditional practices. In the past, children were ignored and their contribution considered worthless. But now we participate in district meetings and contribute to any development initiatives. **”**

Liyuwork (16), Ethiopia Child Parliament chairperson



When I was 15, my parents arranged my marriage. Our poor financial situation meant that my parents were desperate to marry me off. But I didn't want to marry. I mustered up courage and objected to their plans but then they stopped me from going to school...

"... I'm very happy to be a part of the Child Forum. Here we learn many things we need to know that will help us to choose a path of self-empowerment. In the future when I marry, I shall get respect in my new family because of my job and my determination. No one will neglect me. **”**

Shapla (16), Child Forum participant, Bangladesh

