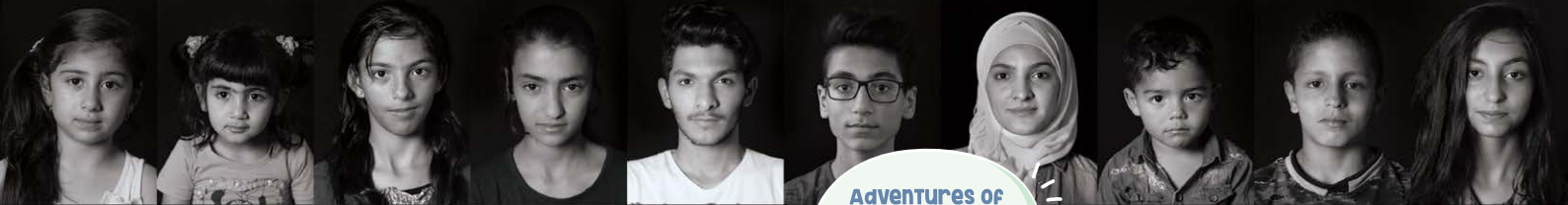


# EXHIBITION GUIDE



The impact of abuse and maltreatment lasts for a life time. Therefore, teach through dialogue, understanding and instilling values, and don't leave a mark through hitting and humiliation



Adventures of  
**LOONEY  
BALLOONY**

المجلس الوطني لشؤون الأسرة  
NATIONAL COUNCIL FOR FAMILY AFFAIRS



عَلِّمُوا تَعَلَّمُوا



**The impact of abuse and maltreatment lasts for a life time. Therefore, teach through dialogue, understanding and instilling values, and don't leave a mark through hitting and humiliation.**

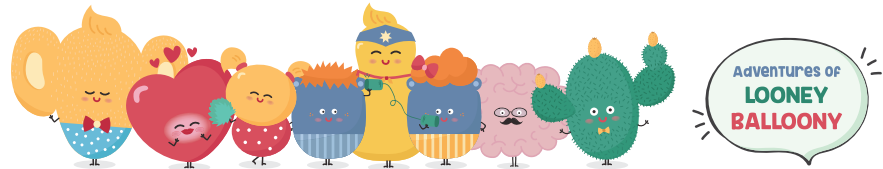
This exhibition reveals various aspects of child maltreatment in Jordan through presenting painful and moving true stories from our society. Some of these stories became issues of public opinion and spread through media, while others took place around us but remained hidden and unknown.

The exhibition aims at shedding light on these stories, so we can all work together towards: “Jordan free of child abuse and maltreatment.” The exhibition provides key messages against each of these unfortunate stories that are directed at children and parents. The content of the messages is about positive parenting methods that rely mainly on dialogue, understanding, communication and being a role model. These methods proved to be successful and effective in reinforcing positive behaviour and self discipline in children.

“The Adventures of Looney Ballooney” is a platform created by the National Council for Family Affairs and the UNICEF, as a continuation of their efforts which aim at raising awareness of the importance of positive parenting within families, and warning them about the dangers of child abuse and maltreatment.

“The Adventures of Looney Balloney” festival is one part of a comprehensive multi-sectoral national strategy, aiming at reducing the violence against children through raising community awareness and supporting the development of policies and programs, in order to protect children from violence, and change attitudes and behaviours, aiming in the end at eradicating all child maltreating practices. These efforts also included launching the **علم لا تعلم** campaign last year on social media platforms. The campaign objective was to raise awareness of the issue of violence against children in Jordan.

#علم\_لا\_تعلم



## Khalid, 18 years old



Khalid is a deaf mute adolescent who hasn't celebrated his 18th birthday yet. One day Khalid's father asked him to buy bread. On his way back home, he was approached by two young men who made fun of him, provoked him, and hit him, taking advantage of his disability and his inability to speak.

Khalid's father says " My son had to defend himself. He attacked one of them with a piece of glass he found on the ground causing an injury in the other man's hand." After the incident, Khalid was arrested in a juvenile rehabilitation centre for a while, after the injured youth filed a complaint against Khalid and accused him with attempted murder. The family of the complainant demanded a four thousand dinar compensation to drop charges. Khalid's family didn't have this amount of money.

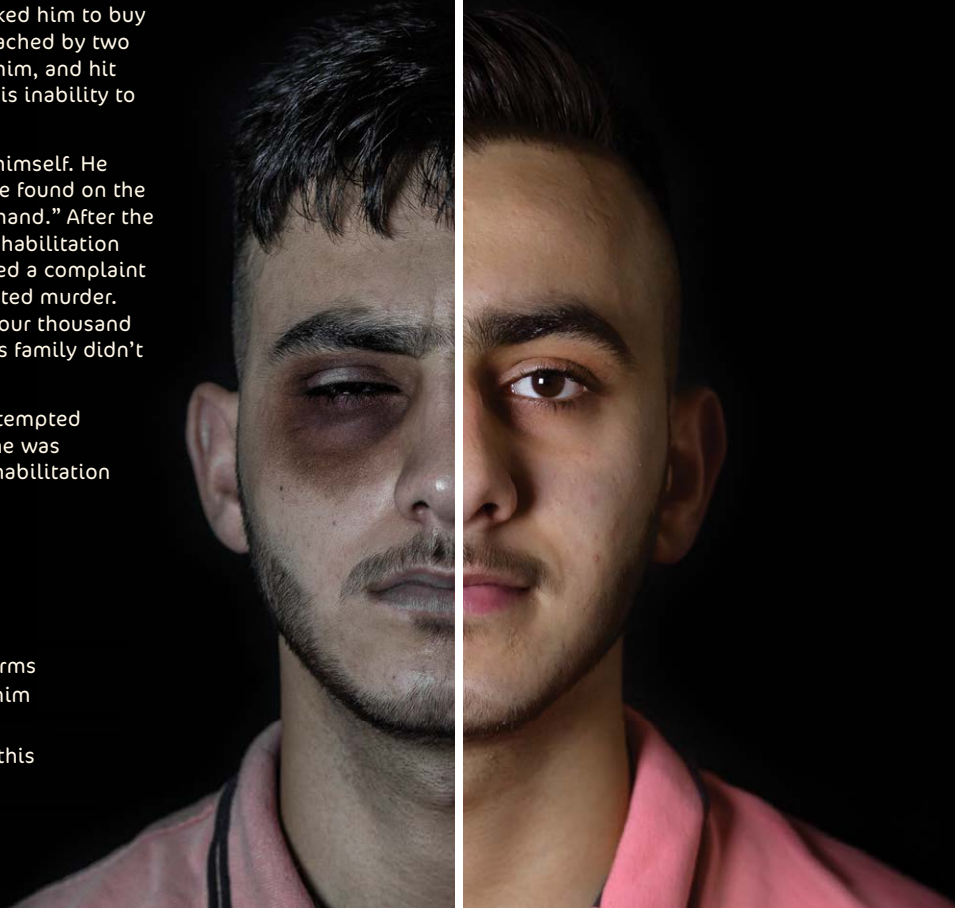
The court didn't consider what Khalid did attempted murder. It was considered maleficence and he was sentenced for two months at the juvenile rehabilitation centre.

Message  
to parents

Teach your son that bullying harms him as well as those around him

Message  
to children

Don't hit who hits you.. Doing this doesn't protect you



# Salwa, 18 years old

عَلِمَ لَا تَعَلَّمَ

“ Salwa is 18 years old. She was married off at the of 16 to an alcoholic and mentally unstable person. For two years, she was exposed to physical, verbal and emotional violence from her husband.

Salma was not the only victim of her husband's violence. Her daughter was too. As time passed by, the violence that the husband inflicted escalated from name calling and threatening to beating. Afterwards he started using cigarette butts and metal objects to burn his wife's body and his daughter's.

Salwa's body is covered with dozens of small burns. There's also a scar on top of her eyebrow. A burn mark from a hot spoon.

In spite of all the wounds and burns, Salwa chose silence in order to “protect her family”. Until one day came, when the quarrel between her and her husband intensified, and the husband locked his wife and daughter in a room, brought all of their clothes and set them on fire.

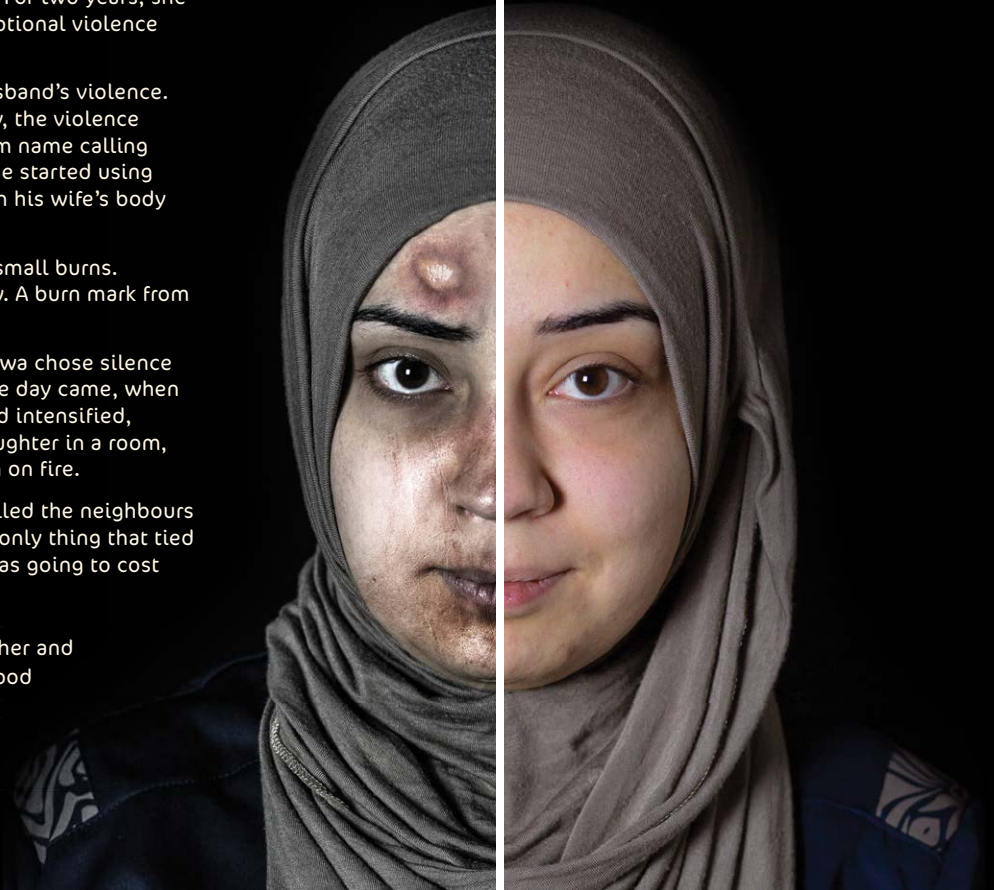
Salwa said: “ I was going to die, but I called the neighbours and they came to rescue me. Fear is the only thing that tied me to him all of these years. Fear also was going to cost me my life and the life of my daughter.”

Message  
to parents

No one has the right to hit her and  
deprive her of her childhood

Message  
to children

Enjoy your childhood and  
postpone marriage



## Haroun, 17 years old



Somewhere in our country...

Haroun is 17 year old adolescent who suffers from complicated domestic problems, especially after his parents got divorced, and he went to live with his stepmother whom he never got along with.

At the age of 14, Haroun started smoking as a way of asserting himself and his identity. After a while he started smoking “the Joker” which is artificial hashish. He got his first cigarette from a colleague at school.

Although Haroun used to get his cigarettes at school, the teachers didn’t take notice of it. They also didn’t notice the obvious change in Haroun’s behaviour.

Within a few months of using this drug, Haroun’s behaviour changed considerably. He became apathetic and reclusive, and in other instances he was irritable and short tempered. His eyes were reddish in colour all the time, and his personal spendings increased tremendously. After one year of using, Haroun dropped out of school since he wasn’t aware of his surroundings and couldn’t follow up with lessons.

In spite of all his attempts to overcome his addiction with the support of his father, all his attempts failed. He beliefs his failure is due to the surrounding environment and the lack of will.

Message  
to parents

Using violence against your child can lead them to delinquency.. Be understanding and don’t lose them

Message  
to children

Don’t use delinquency as a way to escape



# Raneen, 17 years old

عَلِمَ لَا تَعْلَمَ



Somewhere in our country...

Raneen is a 17 year old adolescent who is the victim of a sexual assault attempt by anonymous youth who kidnapped her on her way back from school.

Raneen needs to walk for thirty minutes to reach her home from school. She used to walk in the narrow alleys to shorten the distance. Although her mother warned her continuously and asked her to walk on the main roads, resorting to the shortcuts was necessary especially in rainy days.

One day and as Raneen was walking in a deserted road, a vehicle with two people inside approached her and tried to force her to get in. Raneen resisted the assault and was able to open the door and fell on the ground. This caused multiple wounds and fractures in her body.

Raneen hesitated and didn't want to tell her family because she was afraid of their reaction. After being pressured with many questions about why she came home late, she told her parents what happened. The father decided to get her out of school out of fear that she might be exposed to a similar incident again.

Message  
to parents

The culprit is to blame and not your daughter. Don't hurt her twice

Message  
to children

Be aware of dangers  
on the street



## Alia, 16 years old



Somewhere in our country...

Alia is a 16 year old girl who stopped going to school when she reached the sixth grade due to her low academic performance. She got married at the age of 15 to a man who was 10 years older than her, and she had a child afterwards.

After marriage, Alia moved to live in another govefrnerate, different from the one where her family lived. With the absence of her family's support and her husband addiction on alcohol, Alia fell victim to domestic violence.

The husband used all kinds of violence against her, from hitting with his hand to using a stick. He also used to scold and humiliate her. She tried to solve the problems between them in amicable ways by using mediators. When all her attempts failed, divorce was the only solution ahead.

After divorce and going back to live with her family, the husband refused to support the child or interact with him. This instilled many fears and concerns within Alia towards the future of her child.

Message  
to parents

Her future is secured through her  
degree, education and profession

Message  
to children

Be ambitious and dream  
of a better future





# Hussam, 16 years old



Somewhere in our country...

Hussam is a 16 year old adolescent who is full of energy. However, a verbal argument with his colleague changed his life forever.

The problem started with a normal discussion at school, which turned into a conflict and a verbal quarrel with one of his colleagues.

Although the problem was contained at the time, the conflict began again on the way back from school when Hussam met his colleague in the street and they engaged in a fist fight.

The other student called his 25 year old brother to the site of the quarrel. The brother raised a firearm to Hussam's head and fired it.

The shot caused an acute brain haemorrhage. Hussam reached the hospital after loosing a lot of blood. The doctors performed a surgery to take out the bullet, followed by several operations. Hussam stayed in a coma for several weeks. He awoke afterwards and he is undertaking physiotherapy at the time being since his movement and speech were affected.

Hussam's colleague and his brother were arrested following the incident. The case is still pending before the court.

Message  
to parents

Responding to quarrels should be to stop  
violence and not to exacerbate it

Message  
to children

Community violence ends when we  
all take a stand against it

عَلِّمُوا لَعَلَّكُمْ تَتَّقُونَ



## Mazen, 15 years old



Somewhere in our country...

Mazen is a 15 year old boy. Due to the separation of his parents when he was very young, and the domestic violence and other problems that ensued, he developed a speech problem.

Stuttering and the inability to complete a sentence made Mazen a shy boy who avoided talking and interacting with his family and others as well.

Stuttering, fear and shyness made Mazen an easy target for bullying from his peers at school and in his neighbourhood a well. Bullying in his neighbourhood affected him to a deeper level, especially in the absence of adult supervision.

The boys rarely called Mazen by his name. They used names to make fun of his stuttering. Even when he tried to stand up for himself against the bullies, he got beaten.

Due to this suffering that continued for years, and in the absence of support, Mazen suffered from severe depression that led him to attempt suicide by ingesting cleaning products.

The mother took her son to the hospital where they saved his life. However, and due the burns in his pharynx and throat, Mazen lost his ability to speak. Doctors say there's little hope that he will regain this ability.

Message  
to parents

Your problems will affect your children.. Solve your problems before you destroy them

Message  
to children

Your circumstances aren't of your doing.. Seek help when you need it



# Huda, 15 years old

عَلِمَ لَا تَعَلَّمَ



Somewhere in our country...

Huda is a 15 year old girl. She is smart and was doing great at school. For reasons related to their financial situation, the family decided to take Huda out of school and marry her off. Huda refused and challenged her family. The result was her exposure to violence and severe beating until she consented.

Huda thought that getting married will save her from domestic violence. Reality, however, was completely different. Huda was forced to live with her husband's family. Her husband and his family used to hit and humiliate her on daily basis, in addition to being sexually molested by her husband's brother.

When Huda told her husband about the molestation, He got angry and accused her of lying, and kicked her out of the house. After 3 months of marriage, Huda went back to live with her family. She thought they will treat her well, especially that her suffering was due to their decision. What happened was quite the opposite.

The family believed that Huda brought shame upon them after being divorced. Huda lives in social isolation now, after her family decided to lock her inside the house until another suitor knocks the door.

Message  
to parents

Marriage + a child = Increased vulnerability to sexual, physical and emotional violence

Message  
to children

Early marriage deprives me from enjoying my life



# Noura, 14 years old



Somewhere in our country...

Noura is a 14 year old girl. Her suffering started when she was 5 years old, when she ended her baby sister's life by accidentally suffocating her.

Noura was sharing a bed with her baby sister. During their sleep she rolled over her sister and the baby suffocated to death.

Although Noura's family realised that what happened was an accident, this didn't prevent them from blaming her for what happened. This didn't stop at their doorstep. Noura became known in the neighbourhood as the child who killed her sister.

The incident also caused Domestic problems between her father and mother. Noura's father became violent. He started abusing his wife and daughter whom he blamed for the death of the baby. The father used to beat Noura regularly, justifying his violence with the need to release his anger.

The constant feeling of guilt, since Noura was seen as responsible for her sister's death, made her sad and afraid all the time. She started having panic attacks and nightmares. The situation escalated and she developed incontinence.

The incontinence made Noura feel worse, and she lived in seclusion, away from people around her.

Message  
to parents

Accidents happen ... Help your children  
overcome their ordeals. Don't blame  
them for what they can't bear

Message  
to children

Don't endure what you can't bear..  
Ask for help



# Fadel, 14 years old

عَلِّمُوا لَا تَعْلَمُوا



Somewhere in our country...

Fadel is a 14 year old boy who lives in a family of eight members. The relationship between his parents was tense and they had many conflicts.

The father abandoned his responsibility in securing the basic needs for his children. He was also violent when dealing with them, especially the girls.

Deprivation of basic needs affected the health of the children to the extent where they suffered from malnutrition.

Although their mother was sympathetic and supportive of her children, violence and deprivation of basic needs led Fadel to flee from his family home.

After being absent for two days, Fadel went back home after being harassed on the streets. However, he left his home again after an intense argument with his father where fist fighting was used.

Fadel didn't go back home for months. During this period, he worked as a street vendor and slept in public parks at night. After going missing for months, the police found Fadel in one of these parks. Fadel is still facing many problems with his father and he still sleeps many nights outside his home.

Message  
to parents

Don't be harsh on your children  
and be understanding of them

Message  
to children

Your place is at home and  
not outside..



## Jana, 13 years old



Somewhere in our country...

Jana is a 13 year old girl. She lives with her family in a building that houses all the extended family of uncles and their wives and children.

Strong family ties, and the absence of privacy between the related families living in the same building provided the opportunity for the 22 year old cousin to sexually assault Jana.

The cousin used to visit the house regularly, especially when the father and the mother weren't home. He claimed that he wanted to check on Jana and her siblings. The behaviour of the cousin escalated to the extent where he forced Jana to watch pornographic movies, and to engage in sexual acts that are considered, in the eyes of the law, a crime of defilement.

Jana succumbed under the pressure and the threats of her relative. Although she tried to refuse more than once, he threatened her, saying that if she told her family what was happening, no one would believe her.

After a year of continuous abuse, Jana decided to tell her mother since she couldn't bear the cousin's behaviour anymore. The family filed a complaint. However, due to the delay in reporting and lack of evidence, the perpetrator wasn't convicted.

Message  
to parents

Sexual abuse happens in the dark and many times from people close by

Message  
to children

Tell the truth even if you had to complain against the closest people to you



# Ahmad, 13 years old

عَلِّمُوا لَنَا نَحْنُ نَتَعَلَّمُ



Somewhere in our country...

Ahmad is a 13 year old boy who dropped out of school 2 years ago, and is working now as a porter in the vegetable market.

Ahmad is the eldest son in his family. His father passed away years ago, and the family has used up all their savings. Although they get financial aid, it is still not enough.

Sending Ahmad to work as a porter in the vegetable market was a hard decision for the mother to make, but it was the only choice.

Ahmad says: “ I wanted to be a pilot, I wanted to see the world from above. But my fate is to work in the vegetable market. That is it for me.”

Ahmad works in harsh work conditions. He works from 7 am till 2 am. When he feels tired, he gets a 10 minute break only.

Ahmad complains of the maltreatment of his employer. “He accuses me of negligence. He yells at me and sometimes he beats me. I’m not negligent but I get exhausted. I swear!”.

Message  
to parents

Child labour (For those younger than 16 years of age) is not only ill-legal, it is harmful for them as well

Message  
to children

We have the right to dream and create our own future .. Work at our age exhausts us and doesn't empower us



# Hussein, 12 years old



Somewhere in our country...

Hussein is a 12 year old boy. After the divorce of his parents, he experienced instability for a long time. He used to move daily between his father's place and his grandparents place. Sometimes, he used to sleep at his relatives' because his father's wife refused to let him live in the same house with her.

One day, Hussein was playing with his step sister with a ball. The sister threw the ball at the TV set and broke it. The sister told her mother that Hussein is the one who broke the TV. The mother kicked Hussein out of the house. Hussein pleaded with his step mother " I'm not the who did it. I swear! Please don't send me to my grandfather's house!"

Hussein decided to stay on the streets. It was a very cold night where hail showered. The next morning a passerby found Hussein unconscious on the street.

Hussein feet suffered from frost bite, therefore doctors had to amputate the damaged parts. During medical examination and psychological follow up, it was found that Hussein was exposed to sexual assault from one of his relatives at the grandfather's house.

Between the rejection of the father's wife and trying to escape from sexual abuse, Hussein lost part of his limbs. He lives now in permanent mobility impairment.

Message  
to parents

Broken homes result in  
lost children

Message  
to children

If you felt that you are in  
grave danger .. Call 911





# Dana, 12 years old

عَلِمَ لَا تَعَلَّمَ



Somewhere in our country...

Dana is a 12 year old girl. She has three sisters and three brothers. She, and one of her brothers were born with excessive electrical charges in the brain.

Due to the family's difficult financial situation, and lack of sufficient awareness of the nature of their daughter's illness, and the lack of commitment in administering medication at its specific times, Dana suffered from repetitive seizures, which affected her speech.

One day, Dana had a seizure when she was in the classroom. This day affected Dana's life tremendously since she wasn't accepted anymore among her classmates. This escalated to the extent where some parents demanded that Dana should be expelled since they believed that her presence may affect the safety of other students.

The principal rejected this request and assured the parents that Dana's situation isn't worrisome and that she doesn't present any threat to the safety of the children around her. In spite of the principal's tenacious support for Dana, it didn't make her an accepted child among her peers.

Dana says: "I feel like a Phantom most of the time.. No one sees me.. No one knows how I feel"

Message  
to parents

School is for everyone.. Differences shouldn't stop us from loving and accepting each other

Message  
to children

When you are harassed.. ask for help



# Hamad, 11 years old



Somewhere in our country...

Hamad is an 11 year old boy who is living with his mother in a small house. They live in tough social and financial circumstances due to the separation of his parents.

Due to the extreme financial and social pressures that the mother faced, she developed a state of psychological and mental instability, which negatively affected the way she treated her son.

Due to the absence of help and support, the mother fell victim to severe depression which transformed her into a highly aggressive being, to the extent where she expressed her desire of ending her son's life. She felt that the presence of this child in her life contributed to complicating it, given the responsibilities she had to bear as a single mother.

The mother threatened more than once to end her son's life, and her violent behaviour escalated to the extent where she burned her son's body with cigarettes. Teachers at her son's school noticed the presence of bruises on his body. The repetitive episodes of physical violence which were inflicted on Hamad resulted in the development of psychological disorders making him suffer from deep sadness and frustration.

Hamad says "If my mother hates me then I'm definitely not good. Maybe if I die she will find peace".

Message  
to parents

Don't ignore violence..  
Help in ending it

Message  
to children

Everyone is exposed to stressors .. However  
you are not an outlet for release



# Motasem, 10 years old

عَلِمَ لَا تَعَلَّمَ



Somewhere in our country...

Motasem is a 10 year old boy suffering from a skin condition that affects his external appearance. This illness causes dryness of skin and it turns to bright red in colour.

Motasem didn't feel that he was different from other children, but once he went to school, his life turned to a real nightmare.

In spite of his continuous attempts to build relationships with other children, all of them failed. In addition to the physical and verbal bullying he was exposed to, his peers called him ugly names and asked him endless questions. As for physical bullying, it reached to the extent where some children tried to peel off his skin to try to reveal the 'normal' skin colour.

Motasem only wanted to learn and play like other children, but as time passed by, he became a child who hates school.

Motasem's family couldn't understand his suffering, and the school neglected his emotional state as well. All of this affected his academic performance immensely, and led to changes in Motasem's behaviour.

Message  
to parents

Understand that your child is special  
and help him/ her in building self  
confidence

Message  
to children

Not every one is the same..  
but we have to accept each other



## Houriya, 10 years old



Somewhere in our country....

Houriya is a 10 year old girl. She is sweet and polite. One of her teachers accused her of stealing an amount of money from her. Houriya's father was summoned to the school, especially after the teacher caught her distributing money on her friends so they can buy sweets from the school canteen.

Houriya cried a lot and begged the principal not to call the father, but the principal refused. The father came to the school, and he was furious. Houriya cried "I swear father, I didn't steal! I found the money on the ground!". The father refused to listen to her.

The father promised the principal that his daughter won't resort to this behaviour again, and they went home. He locked Houriya in her room and hit her head against the wall. Then he tied her to the ceiling fan and continued in beating her. Within minutes, Houriya's whole body turned blue and she passed out.

After the father realised that his daughter lost consciousness he took her to the hospital. When she reached there, she had already passed away. The father is serving his sentence in prison. He was charged with beating to death.

Message  
to parents

Teach her.. listen to her.. Understand..  
She is your daughter.. Don't lose her

Message  
to children

You have the right to express yourself..  
Tell the truth and don't be afraid



# Lujayn, 9 years old

عَلِّمُوا لِكُلِّ مَن لَّمْ يَتَعَلَّمْ



Somewhere in our country...

Lujayn is a 9 year old girl. She used to take her sister Lamar (5 years old) to the kindergarten and then continue on her way to her school.

Going to school wasn't easy. The father leaves the house to his work at dawn, and the mother can't take her daughters to school since she needed to take care of Wa'el, her one year old son.

Going to school without an adult companion exposed Lujayn and Lamar to bullying on the street by a group of adolescents. The girls were exposed to verbal violence, since the other kids used to call them inappropriate names when Lujayn refused to talk to them. They also tried to cast both girls with stones.

Lujayn says: "One day, the boys went after us until we reached home while throwing stones at us. I ran fast and fell on my face. My lip was torn. I told my father what happened and he said that I should be taken out of school."

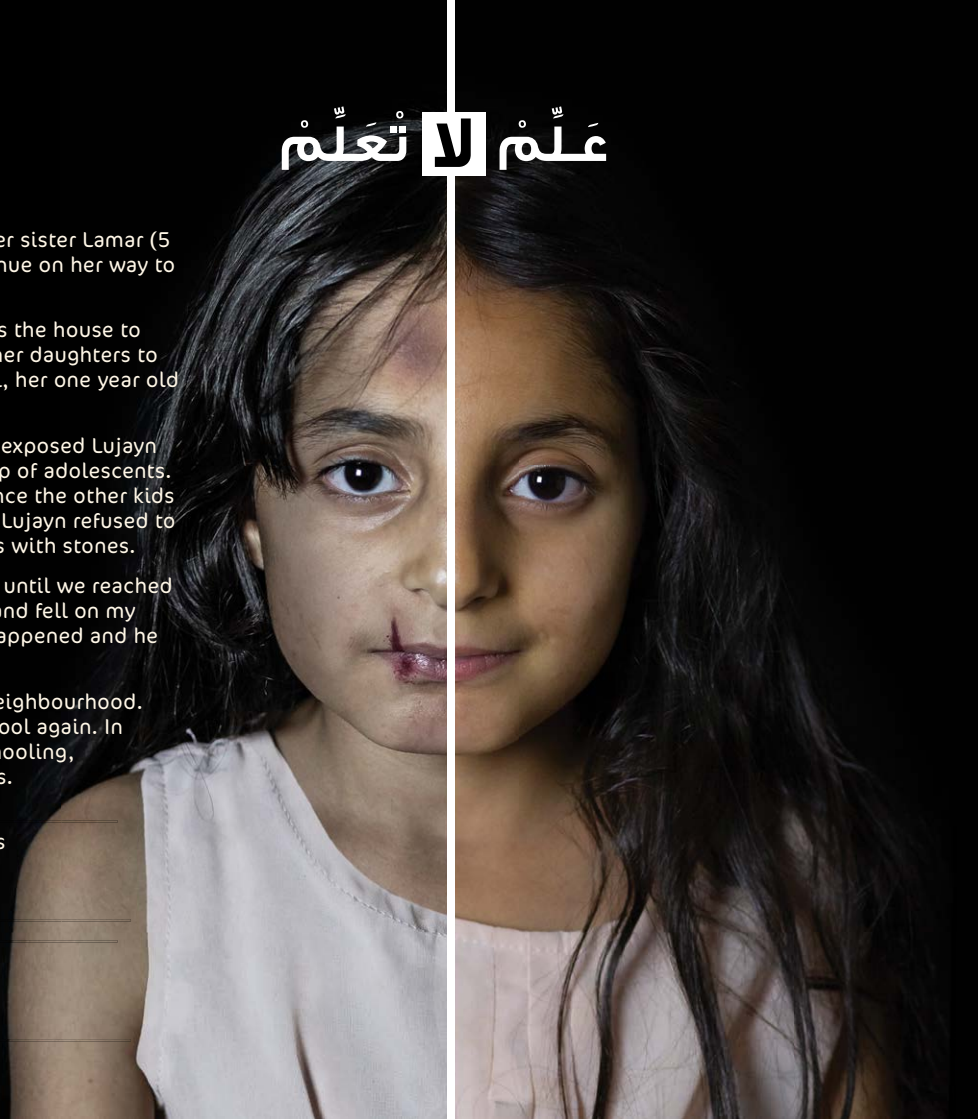
Lujayn's father decided to move to another neighbourhood. However, Lujayn is still afraid of going to school again. In addition to that, she has missed a year of schooling, and won't be with her peers in the same class.

Message  
to parents

Don't deprive her of opportunities  
just because you see the  
world as an unsafe place

Message  
to children

Don't hang around girls'  
schools and deprive them  
of their education



# Abdulrahman, 9 years old



Somewhere in our country...

Abdulrahman is a 9 year old boy. During summer break, he works in a store selling building materials to help his family.

Abdulrahman's family suffers from a tough financial situation. The father works in construction on intermittent jobs while supporting a family of 7 members. Abdulrahman is the eldest son in the family.

The father came to an agreement with the owner of a building material shop to let his son work with him during summer break for 5 Dinars/day. The shop owner specified tasks for Abdulrahman that consisted of loading and unloading goods, in addition to making tea and coffee. This work required using a lift for transporting goods. It is a special elevator used in shops, and it is not to be used by children.

In his second day at work, and while transporting goods using the lift, Abdulrahman was injured in an accident that led to pressure in the neck area. The accident resulted in fracture in the vertebrae leading to a temporary paralysis that lasted for a few months. In spite of his relative recovery, Abdulrahman still suffers from severe pain in his neck, pain that hinder him from doing his daily activities.

Message  
to parents

Household expenses were never the  
responsibility of the child

Message  
to children

You can help.. But not at the  
expense of your future



# Mu'ayyad, 8 years old

عَلِّمُوا لَنَا نَحْنُ نَتَعَلَّمُ



Somewhere in our country...

Mu'ayyad is an 8 year old boy who suffers from autism and severe mental retardation.

After the separation of his parents, Mu'ayyad and his brother lived with their mother. During this period, the father refused to support the children financially, making excuses related to his financial inability. This forced the mother to file a complaint against the father.

As a result of that, the father decided to take his children to live with him and his new wife. The wife, on the other hand, didn't want to care for a child with a disability.

Faced with his inability to pay alimony for his divorcee and the conflict with his wife, the father decided to end his child's life.

One day, and after a heated argument between the father and his wife, he took his son Mu'ayyad to a high building and threw him off of the roof.

During the investigation the father said: "I want to spare Mu'ayyad from the troubles of life."

After two years of committing the crime, the father was sentenced to death for committing murder.

Message  
to parents

Having a child with a disability in a family is not easy.. Our duty is to support them

Message  
to children

Having a disability doesn't mean i'm not like other children.. I only need more support



## Amani, 8 years old



Somewhere in our country...

Amani is an 8 year old girl, who is the second among four siblings. Her problems started when her father abandoned the family and gave up his responsibility towards them.

The mother had to work in cleaning houses, until she suffered from vertebral slippage which rendered her completely incapable of work.

Faced with her inability to work in order to provide basic needs of her children, the mother developed mental instability which made her incapable of taking care of her children.

Amani and her siblings suffered from severe neglect. Amani used to go to the school next to her house wearing dirty clothes and without having eaten anything. In addition to that she was responsible, along with her elder brother, for taking care of her younger siblings.

After she stopped going to school for a while, Amani said: " I like to go to school, but the other girls say don't come, you don't smell nice. The teachers are good, they give me sandwiches. Anyway, it is better this way.. Without going to school."

Message  
to parents

When the home, the school and  
the community work together,  
you can protect your child

Message  
to children

Don't judge them because of  
their appearance.. You have no  
idea what they are going through





# Naghham, 7 years old

عَلِّمْنَا لَا تَعْلَمُوا



Somewhere in our country...

Naghham is a 7 year old girl who is suffering since her birth from a mild brain damage, which affected her ability to speak and communicate.

Naghham wasn't able to integrate fully in the school environment and with her colleagues at school. They always made fun of her since they didn't understand the nature of her health condition.

Naghham lived in complete isolation from her classmates. She chose to sit in the very end at the corner of the classroom, and she never had the courage to participate in class. She was afraid that her answers will bring more sarcasm upon her. The sarcasm was even more frequent during recess, therefore Naghham avoided heading to the school yard, and preferred staying in the classroom.

Naghham's situation affected her behaviour at home as well. She became anxious all the time, in addition to having sleep problems.

The school teacher tried, with the assistance of the school counsellor, to help Naghham in overcoming her problem in integration, and in reinforcing her self confidence. Even when they were successful in stopping students from bullying her, there was still work to be done to build Naghham's self confidence.

The teacher tried to communicate with the mother to develop a plan aiming at helping Naghham in facing her problem. The mother, however, refused to cooperate.

Message  
to parents

A child with a disability needs  
more care and nurturing

Message  
to children

I have a disability, but I want  
to live with dignity and  
have friends who support me



## Noaf, 6 years old



Somewhere in our country...

Noaf is a 6 year old girl. She is the youngest sibling of 5 sisters. The family was hoping for a baby boy when they had her.

The mother blamed Noaf for the deterioration of her relationship with her husband, especially when she suffered from complications during delivery which resulted in her inability to bear more children.

Due to the resentment that the mother showed towards her baby, the uncle and his wife stepped forward and asked to take care of the child. Noaf remained in their care until she was 6 years old.

The little girl had proper care at her uncle's house. She was surrounded with love and affection, and her needs were addressed. However, when the uncle had to leave the country to work abroad, he had to leave the child again with her family.

Both parents weren't accepting of having their child back. She was treated harshly since they believed she was a source of domestic problems. Both parents exposed her to worst forms of abuse, which included beating, kicking and hurting in addition to yelling and the use of humiliating verbal abuse.

After one of the neighbours filed a complaint to the family protection directorate, the child moved in with her grandparents.

Message  
to parents

A boy or a girl..  
Don't discriminate!

Message  
to children

A girl or a boy..  
We are equal!



# Ra'ed, 6 years old

عَلِّمُوا لَنَا تَعَلَّمُوا



Somewhere in our country...

Ra'ed is a 6 year old boy. His family lives in a one room household in one of the crowded neighbourhoods.

He often sits with his brothers on the outer doorstep, especially in hot summer days, away from the heat and the overcrowding inside the house.

One hot summer night, and while he was sitting on the doorstep waiting for his older brothers to come back from the grocery store, Ra'ed met with his 27 year old neighbour. The neighbour offered to take Ra'ed to buy ice cream. Ra'ed was happy with the offer and left with the neighbour without telling his family.

After buying the ice cream, the neighbour tried to lure the child into one of the deserted building in order to sexually assault him. Once the child and the neighbour reached the building, the child became terrified. He resisted and was able to run away. He ran fast, fell on the ground and broke his nose.

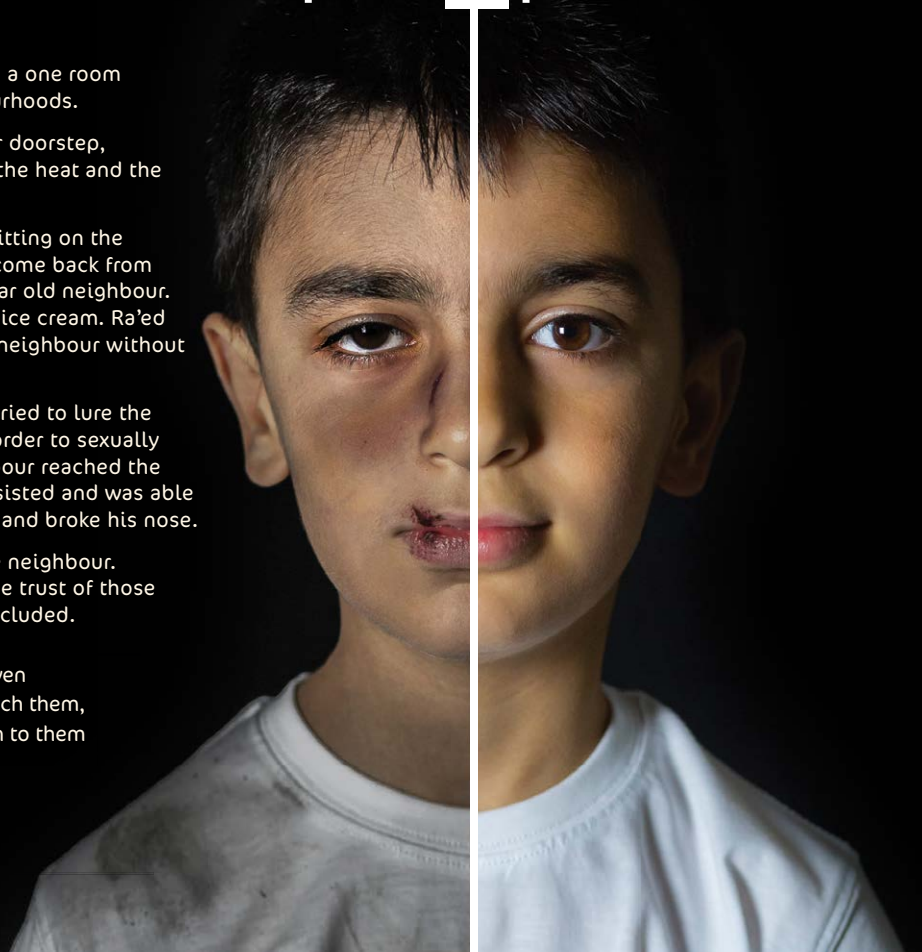
Ra'ed's family filed a complaint against the neighbour. However, the incident caused Ra'ed to loose trust of those around him. He became afraid and more secluded.

Message  
to parents

Do you want to protect them even when you are not around? Teach them, make them aware and listen to them

Message  
to children

Trust your family and tell them what is going on with you



## Marwan, 5 years old



Somewhere in our country...

Marwan's age is 5 years and ten months. He is in first grade and the youngest among his classmates.

Marwan didn't enrol in kindergarten before going to school, therefore he faced trouble adapting to school and keeping quiet in the classroom and the morning line. In addition to that the teacher wasn't able to deal with Marwan and his hyperactivity.

In an attempt to discipline Marwan, the teacher resorted to yelling and threatening. When this failed, she started twisting his ear and hitting him on the face.

Marwan's mother says: "One day, Marwan came home with a cut on his ear. I called the teacher and she said that he might have gotten injured while playing with the other boys."

The mother chose to believe the teacher, until one day Marwan came back home with the mark of slap evident on his face.

The mother added " My son hates school now. I asked to transfer him to a different class. I hope this way he will like school again."

Message  
to parents

Raising children is done by teaching  
them and not hitting them

Message  
to children

Play but don't make  
trouble



# Reema, 4 years old

عَلِّمُوا لَنَا تَعَلَّمُوا



Somewhere in our country...

Reema is a 4 year old girl. She belongs to a family that makes a living out of begging. Since she was born, her family exploited her in begging to earn money.

Reema didn't have the simplest forms of basic needs that are necessary for any child her age, starting from having a birth certificate, to getting proper nutrition and vaccination. All of this resulted in lowering her immunity, and thus she suffered from severe anaemia.

When Reema turned 4, she began working as a street vendor at traffic lights. Her father used to give her a packet full of chewing gum and watched her from a distance as she collected money. When Reema failed to get the expected amount of money, she used to get beaten.

Reema was detained by one of the anti-begging teams deployed by the Ministry of Social development. She used to beg in a late hour which exposed her life to great danger. Reema was classified as a vulnerable child needing protection and care. She was placed in one of the residential care homes.

Message  
to parents

Your child is your responsibility  
not your source of living

Message  
to children

You have to play, study and  
learn today in order to  
succeed in the future



## Muneef, 4 years old



Somewhere in our country...

Muneef is a 4 year old boy. His mother and father were arrested and put in prison on criminal charges. As a result he moved with his brother to live with their aunt.

The sudden separation from his parents, especially his mother, caused a psychological trauma for Muneef, which was exacerbated by the maltreatment he and his brother received from the aunt's husband, who didn't want the children to stay in his house.

During his stay in his aunt's house, Muneef started to have an incontinence problem. The aunt and her husband resorted to beating to stop Muneef from urinating, thinking that he was doing it on purpose.

Beating the child made the problem worse and more frequent, which made the husband very angry. He took Muneef to the bathroom, locked him there, and start hitting his head with the toilet seat.

When the neighbours heard the cries and the loud noise they interfered to save the child. After receiving treatment, he was taken to one of the residential care homes until the parents completed their sentence.

Message  
to parents

Unstable behaviour in children is often  
caused by adults and their problems

Message  
to children

We have the right to be considered...  
Your problems can destroy our lives



# Malak, 3 years old

عَلِمَ لَا تَعْلَمَ



Somewhere in our country...

Malak is three and a half years old. She spent her life living in her father's house, her grandfather's house and in residential care homes.

Malak was born outside wedlock to a minor mother. She spent the first few years of her life in residential care homes until her mother and father were married according to the article 308, which exempts the rapist from punishment in case he married his victim.

After months of marriage, Malak was united with her family. She lived an unstable life due to the continuous quarrelling between her parents, the social stigma and the unaccepting attitude of her grandparents towards her existence.

The problems exacerbated after the parents got divorced. The mother considered Malak to be a source of shame, which led her to be a victim of continuous physical and verbal abuse.

One day, when the mother was mortified by one of her relatives about having this baby, She started beating Malak severely. She hit her head against the ground. As a result, the little girl suffered from a brain concussion that ended her life immediately.

Message  
to parents

Did killing me solve  
your problems?

Message  
to children

If I was alive I would say..  
Please ask for help



## Saif, 2 years old



Somewhere in our country...

Saif is a 2 year old boy. After his parents divorced, he lived with his father and his new wife.

His mother-in-law didn't want to care for a child at the beginning of her married life, therefore she used to disregard taking care of him, and wouldn't provide him with his basic needs of food and proper clothing.

In addition to neglect, the wife used to inflict physical violence on the child, until one day his arm was fractured due to harsh beating. The wife kept silent and didn't tell her husband what happened. She justified the child's crying by saying that the child is "grim and bleak"

Saif suffered from pain due to his broken arm for two weeks. He used to express his feelings of pain through crying. The father got agitated from all the crying. He hit his child severely and locked him in a room for a whole night without attending to his needs.

The next day, when the father went to check on his child, he found him unconscious. He took him to the hospital. It was found there that Saif was suffering from severe dehydration and malnutrition. He was underweight, and the doctors estimated that his weight was that of a six month old baby. In addition to malnutrition and the fracture, Saif had various bruises and injuries spread on his frail body.

Message  
to parents

You are accountable by law when you harm and neglect your children

Message  
to children

It's not alright to be afraid inside your own home.. Speak up





# Samar, 1 year old



Somewhere in our country...

Less than one month had passed after Samar's parents got married when her mother got pregnant with her. The pregnancy wasn't planned at the time since the family was going through tough times financially.

Samar's father was facing problems at work that resulted in him being sacked the day of Samar's delivery. The father believed that this child was jinxed and brought bad luck. This belief deepened after the father failed to find a job for months afterwards.

After the father returned from a failed job interview, he went straight to the girl and hit her against the ground, which resulted in fractures in the skull and brain concussion. Although Samar was taken to the hospital immediately, she passed away after 3 days. She was 9 months old at the time.

The father claimed that what happened to his child was accidental. As time passed by, the feelings of guilt overwhelmed the father and he confessed of his crime. The father is serving his sentence in prison for the charge of beating to death.

Message  
to parents

Burying daughters alive shouldn't  
be back in another form

Message  
to children

Don't end my life...

عَلِّمُوا لَنَا  
لَا تَعْلَمُوا





**From Violence to Safety: Be responsible, Stop violence**  
**Ask for Help.. Call 911**

**Raising children can never be done by hitting them.**

عَلِّمُوا لَعَلَّ تَعْلَمُوا



# #EndViolence

## #عَلِّمُ\_لَا\_تَعَلِّمُ

For more information, please visit

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🌐 <http://www.childrenofjordan.org/>

Year 2018

Adventures of  
**LOONEY  
BALLOON**

All the stories presented in the exhibition are true stories, except for a few changes.

All images displayed are expressive of violence, and are used to support the stories.

The help of children was sought to complete the photoshoot, and the images were photoshopped afterwards.

These are not the images of the real victims of violence. Make up products and photoshop were used by experts to produce images expressive of violence.



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