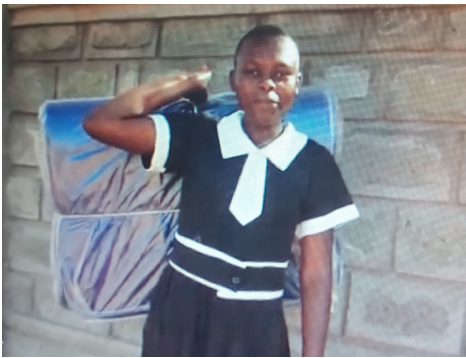




IFAGE UPDATE: Survivor's Journey of Hope & Resilience



From left, Mercy in 2018, admitted at a Girls' School in Bondo. Right, Mercy in 2023 at IFAGE office for admission at the University.

Dear Partners and Friends,

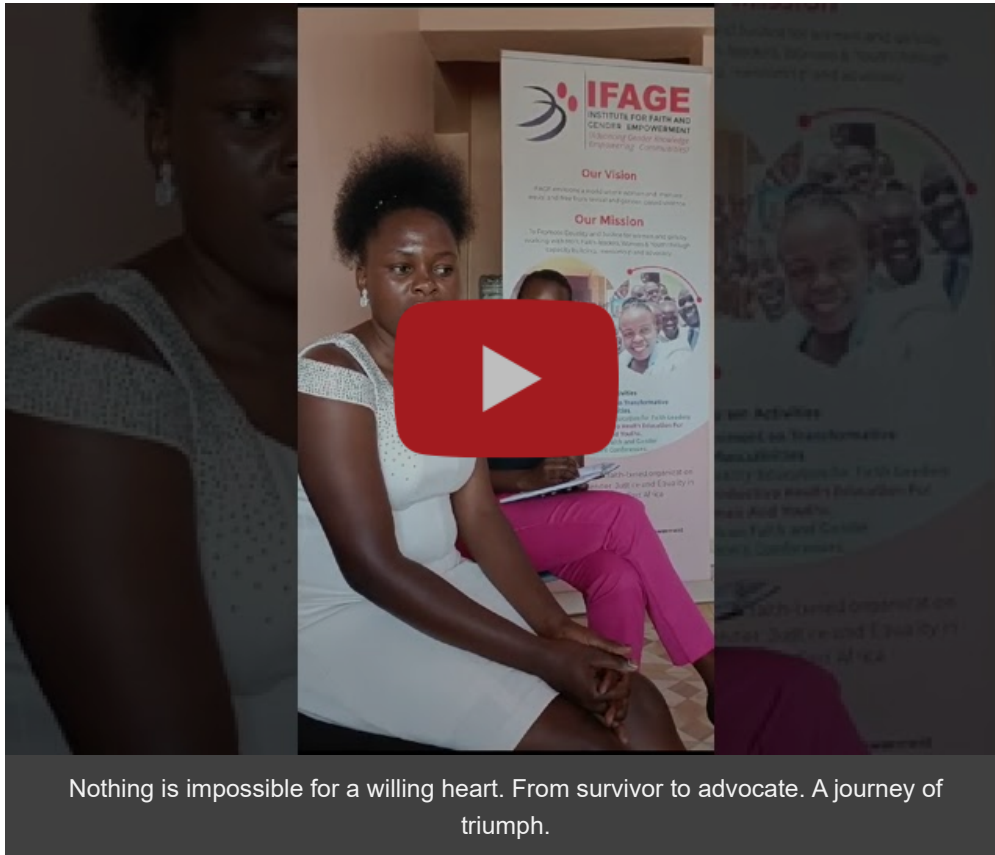
This is a story of resilience and hope from Mercy, one of our sponsored female students, who as a child passed through pain of sexual violence, after the death of her father, and finally became a victor with our support and mentorship through her secondary education.

In 2018, five years ago, a local chief from Gem Sub-County in Siaya, Kenya visited our office to seek support for a young girl of 14 years old. We listened to the chief's plea for the girl's need of education as well as her inspirational story of overcoming great adversities. She arrived at a point of vulnerability, having endured the atrocities of gender-based violence in addition to growing up as an orphan. Even though she was sexually abused, her broken spirit remained steadfast, and she dreamed of not only getting better herself but also being a lighthouse for countless other women and girls in her community.

Through our partners' support, IFAGE enrolled her at a Girls' School in Bondo and provided her with a safe space, scholarship support, and the psychosocial care she needed to rebuild her life.

Fast forward to today, with our hearts bursting with pride, we announce that Mercy is now embarking on a new chapter of her journey. This remarkable young woman stood tall against adversity and stayed focused to attain the best grades in High School. Mercy is now starting her studies at a prestigious University in Kenya, where she will pursue her dream of studying law. Through her education, she aims not only to seek justice for herself but to be the voice for countless other women and girls who suffers sexual and gender based violence.

Here is Mercy's testimony.



Mercy's story mirrors the very essence of what IFAGE stands for – transformation, empowerment, and advocacy. Her trajectory from a survivor to an empowered advocate reflects the impact of our combined efforts. To our partners and friends, this is the power of your love and commitment to support IFAGE towards a world where both men and women are equal and free from sexual and gender-based violence.



From left: Mercy with IFAGE's social worker at the school during June 2022 Parents' day. Right: Mercy with Rev. Misolo at IFAGE's Office on 22nd August 2023 for her University admission facilitation.

Friends, Mercy's story and other success stories in working with traditional leaders and gatekeepers to end gender based violence have been made possible through your prayers, donation and love. It's a collaborative effort that involves each one of us and every dollar counts for a positive change, every hour volunteered, and every word of encouragement shared contributes to the tapestry of transformation that we're weaving together.

Will you join us as a regular partner through your monthly donation, or just your one time support to empower more women and girls in Kenya and across East Africa?

[Donate Now](#)

In conclusion, let Mercy's journey of hope and resilience inspire us to continue doing good with renewed vigor and commitment, knowing that sexual and gender based violence is like a cancer that kills millions of women and girls around the world, just because they were born females, and that we can combine our efforts to end it.

Thank you for your unwavering support and together, we are breaking the chains of sexual violence, fostering healing, and paving the way for a more just and empowered world.

The Institute for Faith and Gender Empowerment (IFAGE) is a registered non governmental organization (NGO) in Kenya that exist to promote equality and justice for women and girls by working with men, religious leaders, and youths in Kenya and across sub-Saharan Africa through capacity building, advocacy and mentorship. Our vision is a world where men and women are equal and free from sexual and gender-based violence. For more information about IFAGE, visit our website at <https://www.ifageinternational.org>

With gratitude and hope,

Rev. Domnic and IFAGE Team



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