



# ÅRSRAPPORT 2019

## *BRIGHTER HORIZONS PROJECT*

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18 JUNI 2020

Brighter  
Horizons

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## The Annual Report

I have chosen to write a report for the recent 1 ½ year because there has been so much going on within the last 5 months of the project, so it is relevant to be updated for the Annual General Meeting. In the following report I will tell you about the activities in our ex-prostitution project and in our disable house. Moreover I will update the Annual General meeting about our cooperation with Pink Power Organization, which is becoming a very big part of our work and effort I Sierra Leone.



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## Ex-Prostitution Project

As described in my yearly report from 2018, we had a big change of the girls in our ex-prostitution house and it has been a very successful replacement. The 8 new girls in the house are now between 14-17 years old and they are going through a fantastic transition in their personality. When we took them into the program, they were all abused kids, with no faith in people and with little or no hope for the future. At the same time none of them were in school and most of them could hardly read. Now they are all in school and they have all been improving their educational level significantly. At the same time all of them now are polite and positive young girls, that believe in their own future, and who is starting to believe in other people as well. It is our sister organization Brighter Horizons, Sierra Leone, who is running the house, and it is still Marie Shyllon who is the doing a great job as a foster mom to all the girls. They love her and respect her so much, and it is in particular her love and passion for the girls, that makes our program successful.

During the state of emergency with the Covid19 in Sierra Leone, all schools were closed and now the girls in the house are helping in a campaign to help, feed and support other sex-workers in SL. And they played an important role when the Danish boarding school Hald-Ege were visiting SL in the end of January and start of February 2020. More about that later.



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## Disable Project

We still have 22 young boys and men in our disable house in Waterloo, 30 min. drive from Freetown. Unfortunately 2 of the boys died three months ago. We send both of them to the hospital, but the doctors were not able to save their life. One of the problems we are facing is that the boys' immune defense are very poor in general. One of the main reasons is that, before we took them into the program, they had been living a miserable life in the street. Most of the time they were unable to get decent food and they were suffering from a very poor hygiene as well. That is a thing we are very aware of. To make sure that all our people in the disable house are living a healthy life in the house. They do plenty of sport, get decent food and have a good possibility to keep themselves clean. During the last period of time we gave them a generator for the house as well, which means that they have a possibility to have electricity 24 hours a day, and that they can always cook healthy and boil the water. Before they only had that opportunity when there was NP (National Power).

It is still Vidal Koroma who is running the house, and just like Marie Shyllon, he is doing an amazing job, giving the disable boys and men plenty of love and care. When the two people died in the disable house, we took two others in. They are young boys, 5 and 10 years old.

For the past 1 ½ year we have had better finances in our project, which means that it has been possible for us to send 12 of the 22 boys in our house to school. Last year it was only 8. An improvement we are very happy for, even though our aim is to get an education for everybody.



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## Status on project cooperation

Here I refer to the cooperation between Pink Power, Brighter Horizons.SL, and Brighter Horizons.DK, as well as all the various events and initiatives. The cooperation between the above mentioned organizations has really been developing within the past 1 ½ year. Here are some of the achievements and initiatives we have been doing together. Note that in many of our mutual efforts, we are profiling Pink Power, even though we are doing the work together. But we are rather sure that it is easier and better for the Sierra Leonean public and for the girls and women in general just to be aware and focus on Pink Power and their fight for female rights and the protection of vulnerable girls and women. However that does not mean that the importance of BH.SL and BH.DK is not very, very big. We are the ones raising all the funds and building up the “know how” and competences in Pink Power.



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## The Pink Power Kehkeh project

In December 2019 we bought the first Pink Power kehkeh which was the start of the Pink Power kehkeh project, and now we have 7 Pink Power kehkehs driving the streets of Freetown. We have several goals to achieve with that project.

1. We are distributing condoms and informational materials to the costumers from the kehkehs, which means that all the passengers will receive free condoms and information about sexually transmitted diseases, violence against girls and women, FGM, and other issues that affect the life's of vulnerable girls and women. At the same time, the kehkehs will be parked and serve as safe places in the most busy areas for sex-workers, so that at nighttime they can go for help, counseling, and protections, if they face assault, abuse, or rape from their customers or others.
2. We are educating female drivers for the kehkehs. Especially former sex-workers, whom we are offering an escape from prostitution and a job as kehkeh drivers. So far we have made the change in the life of four women, who are now working and driving for Pink Power.
3. We have established a Pink Power safe house, where we take in girls and women who have been beaten, raped, or in other ways abused.



4. We are and have been running radio campaigns about female rights, telling people how and where to seek help through Pink Power.

5. We have established an office in Freetown, where females can go for help and counseling.

6. We have started a cooperation with 5 police stations in Freetown, where we make seminars for the police officers, so we are connected to the authorities.

7. We have started a cooperation with both UN Women and UNAIDS to benefit and protect our target group, vulnerable girls and women. Before Covid-19 we agreed on running campaigns together in order to do so, but our first coordinated events were cancelled because of the occurrence of Covid-19. At this particular moment we are in a dialog with both organizations on starting an intervention together during Covid-19.



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## Cooperation between Hald-Ege Boarding School and BH.DK

In end of January and start of February 2020 we arranged a trip to Sierra Leone for Hald-Ege boarding school. They were 210 students in the ages 15-17 years plus 30 teachers. During their stay in Sierra Leone both the students and the kids participated in activities arranged by BH.SL and Pink Power. It was a great mutual experience. BH.SL and Pink Power arranged intercultural exchange between female members of their organization, where they were teamed up with the Danish students and teachers. They showed them their homes and told them about their lives. Friendships and understanding were build, and both the Danes and the Sierra Leoneans learned so much about life circumstances. It was a great success, and the first time in many years that a group that size visited Sierra Leone.





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## Conclusion

The past 1 ½ year has been a period of time where we, Brighter Horizons.DK, have been achieving much more than expected. But we would not have been able to do that without a great dedication and working effort from our two sister organizations in Sierra Leone, Pink Power Organization and Brighter Horizons Project.SL. Furthermore, I have too mentioned CISU, who have been supporting our work in SL, both with finances and with good and valuable advice. Mobile Power and 3B Impact are other partners I would like to mention and thank. They have been financing part of our Pink Power kehkeh project, that are presently making a big change in the lives of a lot of girls and women in SL. Last but not least, I will thank Dr. Henrik Rasmussen and his wife Britta Rasmussen for their continual financial support for the past 6 years. Together we are helping girls and women in SL, plus some disabled people as well, to change their lives.

## Best Regards

*Erik Rasmussen*

*Chairman of the board in Brighter Horizons*

