



ZONTA
CLUB OF
WASHINGTON, DC
MEMBER OF ZONTA INTERNATIONAL
EMPOWERING WOMEN
THROUGH SERVICE & ADVOCACY

NEWS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

Kakenya Center For Excellence Alumna Addresses President Obama

Washington, DC, August 21, 2015... In July 2015 United States President Barack Obama met a young woman in Nairobi, Kenya, who spoke of how her education at the Kakenya Center of Excellence (KCE) changed her life. Linet Momposhi is currently a student at Pangani Girls High School in Nairobi and shared a story about her friend who at age 12 underwent female genital mutilation (FGM) and was later married off at 13. Linet informed the President that joining the KCE boarding school enabled her to dream and now she wants to study to become a cardiologist at Harvard University.

Kakenya Ntaiya, founder of KCE, sent out an e-newsletter praising Linet's confidence and eloquence in delivering the message on the importance of educating the girl child and especially the role education plays in ending FGM and child marriages in our community.

During his three day visit in Kenya, President Obama challenged the Kenyan government to educate its girls and empower women in order to achieve its development goals. During a public rally, he was quoted as saying, "Any nation that refuses to educate its girls or employ women and allow them to maximize their potential, is doomed to fall behind the world economy."

The Zonta Club of Washington, D.C., has provided support to KCE since 2010 and is proud of our association with Kakenya and her Center of Excellence, and the great spokeswomen educated there.

Please watch the full dialogue between Linet and President Obama here -
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5izotZkKeAg>

The Zonta Club of Washington, D.C. is a member club of Zonta International, a leading global organization of professionals empowering women worldwide through service and advocacy. Founded in Buffalo, New York in 1919, Zonta takes its name from the Lakota Sioux Indian word meaning "honest and trustworthy". The DC Club has been serving the women in the District of Columbia since it was formed in 1922.

The Kakenya Center for Excellence is a non-profit organization focused on serving the most vulnerable and underprivileged girls in Kenya. Dr. Kakenya Ntaiya founded it in 2008.

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