

Aisha Nabukeera

“The scars are the reminders of what I have been through, but they will not dictate where I am going”

Aisha Nabukeera is a youth activist and leader of the Aisha Nabukeera Foundation, which advocates for children’s rights and assists survivors of child abuse in Uganda.

Tackling issues that have been historically neglected in her country, Aisha provides essential emotional and practical support for children overcoming and escaping the complexities of family abuse, knowing all too well the life-changing impact of abuse.

Aged 10, Aisha was handed a dress by her stepmother to put on. Unbeknownst to Aisha, the dress had been soaked in petrol. Her stepmother then handed her a pack of matches and asked her to light a candle. Engulfed by flames and left alone, Aisha endured severe burns over 80% of her body. With little support, Aisha had to overcome the severe trauma and permanent disfiguration of her body.

After spending over 2 years in hospital, Aisha fought to return to school, eventually leading her to pursue her passion for Social Administration, achieving a Bachelor of Arts from the Ugandan Christian University.

Aisha’s journey begins at a place of confusion and hurt. Initially hiding the burns on her body and dealing with the emotional trauma of her childhood abuse alone - Aisha learnt to embrace her beauty and sense of self, entering the Miss Uganda beauty Pageant in 2015, winning ‘Miss Rising Woman’. Aisha is passionate about sharing her story to raise critical awareness of SDG 5, focusing on child abuse, female empowerment, mental health care and community action.