

## Tanzania Day of Prayer Poem by Peace Club Member from Zanzibar

### STOP VIOLENCE AGAINST CHILDREN

1. My sincere greetings  
To you all  
Assalam aleikum  
Peace be on you.
2. Children and young people  
We have met here today  
Our aim is to join the struggle  
To stop violence
3. We are really determined  
To ensure fulfilment of all rights  
Stop violating our rights  
We tell you now
4. Defilement has persisted  
Gang rape has increased  
This is happening  
In Zanzibar and Mainland (Tanzania)
5. We children are being bullied  
Cruelly treated  
Being harassed  
Abused we are too
6. This is our cry  
Fathers, teachers among them  
Ooh! We have nowhere to go  
A lot of excuses are given
7. That we are not responsive  
And that we do not obey them  
We are mischievous  
The world distracts us
8. We are abused physically  
Being beaten without mercy  
Being pushed hard  
And being shouted at.
9. Our bodies are affected  
Injuries we get  
Pain begets us  
As we cry agonisingly
10. Also mentally  
We lose our tender nature  
It's beyond theories  
Of psychology
11. We feel bad  
The bad names we are called  
They say it's just a joke  
While it's disgracing
12. Abandonment of children  
Threatens them  
And isolation  
Who is to be blamed?
13. We are infected with HIV  
Pregnant we get  
As laws are disobeyed  
Otherwise we wouldn't be in this  
situation
14. What is done on us is unfair  
We children don't approve  
We say no  
Our voices are high
15. They should be listened to  
We start with the government  
Even other organisations  
Including communities
16. Civil Society Organisations  
The media

And also Ministry of Health  
and Social Welfare

We children are affected  
We should all join to stop that

17. The judiciary and police  
Shouldn't allow  
Themselves to be among the culprits
18. Procedures should be followed  
You shouldn't hide things  
So that children can benefit  
By observing the law
19. Religious leaders  
You should be on the fore front  
Abuses are rampant  
We children suffer
20. Please take steps  
So that ethics are followed  
Use the Scriptures  
The Qoran and the Bible
21. Violence should be stopped  
Families should be involved  
A network to be established  
To protect rights
22. We need to fulfil them (rights)  
You shouldn't go against them  
Even the UN loves us  
UNICEF cares
23. In order to comfort us  
The society needs to move  
Why are we maltreated  
Who is to stop this?
24. Say you are all my children  
Your child is my child  
Protect them with all your might  
So that they grow to be good citizens
25. We children are abused  
We children are harassed

26. When will this end  
Suffering that can't be tolerated  
We all condemn this  
Hundred per cent
27. I have reached the end  
And I hope  
You'll work on this  
Whole heartedly
28. LET'S WORK  
TOGETHER TO STOP  
VIOLENCE AGAINST  
CHILDREN