

Title of session: **Negative effects of gender discrimination**

This episode introduces parents, children and citizens, to the concept of unfair treatment based on gender, in particular the unfair treatment of girls at home and school.

Length of recording: t.b.c.

Scene 1: Gender discrimination at home

Actors: Kemoh (father), Mami (mother), Ami (daughter) and Medo (son)

Scene 2: Gender discrimination in school

Actors: Mr. Alpha (male teacher), Principal (man), Kadi (girl), Boys and Girls

Scene 3: Reflection about gender discrimination

Actors: Mr. Alpha (male teacher), Principal (man)

Scene 4: Girls talking about gender discrimination

Actors: Ami and Kadi (school girls)

Scene 1:

Mami:	(Shouts) <i>Medo! Ami!</i>	Medo! Ami!
Medo:	<i>Yes mama.</i>	Yes, mom
Mami:	<i>Una kam it, a don kuk don.</i>	Come and eat, I have finished cooking
Medo:	(from afar) <i>A de kam ma.</i>	I am coming
Mami:	<i>Una ori, kam it we di it ot. Kasadalif sup na we i ot i swit.</i>	
	Hurry up, come and eat while food it is hot. Cassava leaf sauce is best eaten hot.	
Sfx:	Footsteps	
Medo:	<i>Hmmm...I smel swit!</i>	Hmmm... it's smells good!
Mami:	<i>Gud, kam sidom le wi it.</i>	Good, come have a seat, let's eat.
Sfx:	Moves chair	
Mami:	Ami!	
Ami:	<i>Yes Mama.</i>	yes mom
Mami:	<i>Usay yu de?</i>	Where are you?

Sfx: Footsteps

Ami: *Mama a de ya.* I am here, mom

Mami: *Di it dn redi... Yu don get wata ful di tank?*

The food is ready.... Have you fetched water and filled the tank yet?

Sfx: Moves chair

Ami: *A no du dat et, a go du am wen a komot klas.*

Not yet, I will do it when I come back from class.

Mami: *I go don leet... Medo yu kin go get di wata we yu it don.*

It will be too late.... Medo, you can go fetch the water after you eat.

Medo: *Yes ma bot le a du am we den cda baba de no go si mi.*

Yes, mama but let me do it when the other boys don't see me.

Mami: *Wetin du?* Why?

Medo: *Di baba den we de na di eria de provoke mi we den kin si a tot wata. Den se na uman wok dat.*

The boys around here make fun of me when they see me carry the water. They say it is girls' work.

Mami: *E Medo, sori o we den baba ya de tak lek dat. Bot noto tru, baba o titi o ol fo ep wit oswok.*

Ai, Medo, I am sorry these boys say such things. It's not true, boys and girls should both help at home.

Medo: *Wel wetin mek insay anti Aysatu in os na di titi den noma de du di oswok?*

How come in auntie Aisatu's house the girls only do the house work and not the boys?

Mami: *Wel na so tin bin tan fostem, bot tin de chenj naw. If baba en titi sheb di oswok, den go get ma tem fo stadi.*

That was a tradition before, but things are changing. If girls and boys share the work in the house, they can all have enough time for their studies.

Medo: *Oke, bot a go go wen di baba den no go si mi.*

Ok, but I will go when the boys don't see me.

Mami: *Hhmmm... Medo dat nɔ gud o. Yu nɔ fɔ fred eni pan den bɔbɔ ya...*

Hhmmm... that's not good Medo. You should not be afraid of these boys...

SFX: Footsteps...

Kemoh: *Wetin de apin? Medo wetin mek yu de fred den bɔbɔ ya? Aw, una fet? A dɔn tel yu se a nɔ lek fet...*

What happens? Why are you afraid of the other boys Medo? Is this about fighting? I told you that I don't want you to fight...

Mami: *Nɔ o Kemɔ, Medo de se den ɔda bɔbɔ ya de provoke am we i go get wata bikɔs den se na uman wok dat.*

Oh no Kemoh, Medo is saying that the other boys will make fun of him if he goes fetch water because it's a job for girls.

Kemoh: *O den bɔbɔ ya! Dis sem tin apin to mi wen a bin lili. Wen mi sista den mared go, mi en mi brɔda dem bin get fɔ ep wi mama du ɔl di oswok.*

Oh, these boys! It happened to me as well when I was a child. My sisters got married so me and my brothers were helping our mother at home.

Medo: *... so wetin yu du?* ...so what did you do?

Kemoh: *Wel, fɔs a tray fɔ fet dem en dat gi mi siriyɔs waala. Afta dat a tɔk to dem. Yusef fɔ du dat.*

Well, at first I tried to fight them and we got in trouble. So after I talked to them. You should do the same.

Medo: *We yu tɔk to dem wetin yu se?* What did you tell them?

Kemoh: *A tel dem se den bin de provoke mi bikɔs den de jelɔs mi bikɔs a get trenk pas dem, en kin tot mɔ wata pas dem.*

I told them that they were making fun of me only because they were jealous of how strong I was! I could carry more water than all of them!

Medo: *O papa!* Oh Papa!

Sfx: Laughing

Mami: *Yes yu fɔ telden se le den wet nɔmɔ, if yu sista tɔn president tumara, na da tem de den go no se den nɔ bin fɔ tek Medo tɔn an.*

Yes, and you should also tell them that if your sister is the President one day, they will wish they never made any fun of Medo!

Ami: *O papa!* Oh, Papa!
SFX: All laughing

Scene2

Sfx: School background noise (chatting, chairs...)

Alpha: Good morning!

Children: Good morning, Mr. Alpha

Alpha: *Bifo a bigin tich tide, a go lek fɔ pik di klas prifekt. In wok go bi fɔ mek shɔ se ɔda de na di klas. Di kals prifekt nain fɔ mek shɔ se ɔltin wok fayn na di klas. If a get eni tin fɔ gi ɔ tel di klas na in a pas am to fɔ di klas. So udat go lek fɔ bi di prifekt?*

Before I start teaching today, I would like us to choose a class prefect. His responsibility will be to maintain order in the class. The class prefect will be the coordinator. If I have any information or materials for the class, I will pass it through him for all of you. So who would like to be the prefect?

Children: (Noisily) *Yes Sa! Yes Sa! Yes Sa!* Yes sir! Yes, sir! Yes, sir!

Alpha: *Oke. Mek a mek sɔntin klia. A nɔ want gyal-pikin fɔ bi klas prifekt. So le ɔl di gyal-pkin den put den an dɔŋ. Na bɔbɔ den nɔmɔ kin bi lida, na den nɔmɔ kwalify.*

Okay. Let me make something very clear. I don't want a female as class prefect. So all the girls put your hands down. Only the boys can be leaders, only the boys are qualified.

Girl: *Dat kɔrekt sa?* Is that fair sir?

Alpha: *Duya, una wan tel mi aw fɔ tek kia ɔf mi klas naw?*

Do you want to give me instructions on how I manage my class?

Girl: *Nɔ Sa.* No sir

Alpha: *Mek shɔ se una nɔ aks mi da kayn kweshɔn de egen!*

Make sure you don't ask me that type of question again!

Girl: *Yes Sa.* Yes, sir

Sfx: Footsteps (man coughs and clears his throat)

Principal: *Mista Alpa, gud aftanun.* Mister Alpha, good afternoon

Alpha: *So pan di bɔbɔ dem uswan pan una fil ɔ no se in kin ebul du di klas prifekt wok?*

So among the boys, who is confident and brave to take the class prefect challenge?

Principal: *Mista Alfa* Mr. Alpha

Alpha: *So bɔbɔ dem, udat want fɔ bi di klas prifekt?*

So boys, who wants to be the class prefect?

Principal: (louder) *Mista Alfa!* Mr. Alpha!

Alpha: *Yes Sa...Prinsipul so yu de ya Sa... sɔri Sa.*

yes, sir...Principal, so you are around sir, sorry sir.

Principal: *A dɔn de ya fɔ sɔm tɛm naw.* I have been around now for a short while

Alpha: *Oke. A nɔ ivin notis se yu de Sa.* Ok. I did not even notice you, sir

Principal: *A no. A si dat klia wam.* I know. I can see that very clearly.

Alpha: (Chuckles) *O prinsipul !* Oh principal

Principal: *Yu kin le wi tɔk smɔl? A wan tɛl yu sɔntin.*

Can you give me one minute of your time please? I want to have a word with you

Alpha: *Yes Sa. No problem Sa. Klas una mek shɔ se una kwayɛt we a go tɔk wit di prinsipul. Oke?.*

Yes, sir. No problem, Sir. Class make sure you keep quiet while a talk to the principal ok?

Children: *Yes Sa.* Yes sir

Principal: *Kadi, mek shɔ se di klas kip kwayɛt we Mista Alfa go tɔk to mi..*

Kadi, make sure that the class keeps quiet while Mr. Alpha is away.

Kadi: *Yes Sa.* Yes, sir

Boy: *E, Kadi na yu na di klas prifekt naw?*

Oh Kadi, are you the class prefect now?

Kadi: *Ase, le ɔlman kip kwayɛt. Le wi mek smɔl smɔl grup dɛn fɔ stɔdi.*

Please, let's keep quiet. Let's study our lesson in groups.

Scene 3

Principal: *Mista Alfa. A yeri yu de se na bɔbɔ den nɔmɔ kin bi lida na klas. Dis nɔ gud fɔ di gyal-pikin den o.*

Mr. Alpha. I heard you saying that only boys can be leaders in your class. This is very unfair to the girls.

Alpha: (hesitant voice) *Wel... Wel...* Well... Well...

Principal: *A yeri yu klia klia wan.* I heard you loud and clear.

Alpha: *Prinsipul* Principal

Principal: *Yu no se da tɔk de we yu tɔk so kin gi yu trɔbul?*

Do you know you can get into trouble for such statement?

Alpha: (confused) *Sa...* Sir...

Principal: *Nɔto yu fɔ tɔk da tɔk de na klas. In fakt sef yu nɔ fɔ tɔk da tɔk de enisay. I nɔ gud.*

You are not expected to make such statements in class. As a matter of fact, you should not make such statement anywhere. That is not good.

Alpha: *Fu tru Sa, a nɔ min bad Sa.* Please sir, I didn't mean to do any harm

Principal: *A nɔ biliv dat. Bɔbɔ en Titi dem fɔ get di sem ɔpɔtyuniti. Wen den de na skul wi fɔ trit den di sem we. Nɔn nɔ betɛ pas in kɔmpin.*

I can't believe that. Boys and girls should have equal opportunities. At school, we should treat them the same. None is better than the other.

Alpha: *Sɔn den titi ya den biznes at fɔ manej.*

Some of these girls are difficult to manage.

Principal: *Wi we de wok ya fɔ no aw fɔ manej dem. Yu de tray fɔ se bɔbɔ den yon biznes nɔ at fɔ manej?*

We work in a school and we should know how to manage them. Are you trying to suggest that boys are not difficult to manage?

Alpha: *Wel, bɔbɔ den sef kin at fɔ manej...* Well, boys can be difficult to manage too...

Principal: *So wetin difren, fɔ get klas prifekt we na bɔbɔ en klas prifekt we na titi?*

So, what is the difference between a girl class prefect and a boy class prefect?

Alpha: *Bɔbɔ den kin get sens, Titi de kin de shem shem en den kant bi lida.*

Boys are smarter. Girls are so shy; they cannot be leaders.

Principal: *Ooo... a sɔprayz fɔ yeri Sinyɔ ticha lek yu de tɔk so. Yu fɔ get mɔ ekspiryɔns fɔ no se bɔbɔ ɛn titi den nɔ difrɛn. Di prɔblɛm na dat bɔku ticha, mama ɛn papa den lek yu so, de tɛl titi den se den nɔ get sɛns lek bɔbɔ dɛm. Dis naim de mek di titi den de shem na klas. If a kam to yu ɛvride de se yu nɔto gud ticha, aw yu go fil?*

Oh, I am so surprised to hear this from a senior teacher like you. You should have enough experience to know that girls and boys are not different. The problem is that too many teachers and parents behave like you and tell the girls that they are not smart enough. This makes them shy in class. If I come to you every day to tell you that you are not a good teacher, how would that make you feel?

Alpha: *Mmm... A go fil baaad.* Mmm... I would feel bad about it.

Principal: *Dat nɔ go mek yu lɔs op pan yusef?* Wouldn't it make you lose your confidence?

Alpha: *Sɔntɛm, yɛs Sa.* Probably yes sir.

Principal: *Wɛn yu luk na di os egen, titi den get mɔ wok pas den brɔda dɛm ɛn na so den nɔ get bɛtɛ tɛm fɔ stɔdi. Wi fɔ ɛp di titi dɛm mɔ na skul, if wi du dat den go ebul get bɛtɛ rizɔlt. Yu nɔ de si se wi de get bɔku uman dɛm na impɔtant pozishɔn dɛm na wi kɔntri? Wi get Dɔkta, ticha. Lɔya. Minister... yusef get gyal-pikin dɛm; yu nɔ want ɛ dɛnsɛf ɛnjɔy layf?*

See... also, at home, girls have much more chores than their brothers, so they also have less time to study. We should support them more in school, with our help they can achieve great results. Don't you see how we have so many women in important positions in our country? Doctors, teachers, lawyers, Ministers... You have daughters too; don't you want them to succeed in life?

Alpha: *Yu rayt Sa. A nɔ kin tink bɔt ɔmɔs tɛm titi dɛm de yuz fɔ du oswok. Mi yon gyal-pikin den lili fɔs bɔt a de op se dɛnsɛf go go kɔlɛj wande.*

You're right, sir. I never thought about how much time the girls spend doing chores. My daughters are still very young, but I hope that they will go to college one day.

Principal: *So wi get fɔ ɛp dɛm. Wi yon wok as ticha dɛm na fɔ mek shɔ se wi ɛp di wan dɛm we get fɔ lid wi kɔmyuniti ɛn kɔntri tumara. If pipul den get edyukeshɔn den go get mɔ ɔpɔtyuniti na layf.*

So you need to support them. Our responsibility as teachers is to prepare the future leaders of our community and our country. If people are educated they can get better opportunities in life.

Alpha: *A no sa, A beg Sa, a go tray fɔ luk tin dɛm di ɔda we.*

I know, sir. I am sorry. I will try to look at things in a different way.

Principal: *Fɔ egzampul yu kin mek wan nyu prifekt evri tam. Wantem i go titi di wda tem i go bi bɔbɔ.*

For example, you could appoint a new class prefect every term. One time it will be a girl, the next time a boy.

Alpha: *Na gud aydia dat Sa!* That's a very good idea, sir!

Scene 4

Sfx: Footsteps

Ami: *Hmm wetin mek Mista Alfa insetf biev so? Wetin mek i se gyal-pikin nɔ fɔ bi klas prifekt?*

Hmm why did Mr. Alpha behaved that way? Why did he say that a girl shouldn't be a class prefect?

Kadi: *Na so i tan. Yu memba aw i mek a shem na In klas di las tem?*

That is how he is. You recall how he embarrassed me in class the last time?

Ami: *A memba.* I remember

Kadi: *Gɔd nain mek wi as uman, bɔt bikɔs wi na uman nɔ min se wi nɔ fɔ get pozishɔn en du wi yon jɛs leke man.*

God created us as female. The fact that we are female doesn't mean we shouldn't be given positions of responsibility.

Ami: *Tru se tɔk mi, nɔto Mista Alfa nɔmɔ de tink se bɔbɔ dem betɛ titi dem o; na di sem we wisetf di skol-pikin dem de biev.*

The truth has to be said, it is not only Mr. Alpha who is favouring boys. You know that some of us pupils also behave like that.

Kadi: *Yu rayt ya mi sista, bɔt wi nɔ fɔ gri to dat.*

You are right, my sister but we shouldn't accept that.

Ami: *I nɔ rayt. Eniwe di prinsipul in nɔ tan so. A jɛs op se i tɔk to Mista Alfa bɔt dat... Kadi, yu go bi di best pɔsin fɔ mek klas prifekt! Yu kleva en no aw fɔ tɔk na krawd... mi de shem bad bad!*

It is so unfair. At least the principal is not like that. I hope he talked to Mr. Alpha about this... Kadi, you would be the best class prefect! You are smart and you know how to talk well in front of people... I am so shy!

Kadi: *Wetin mek yu se so? Yusef na kleva gyal en sabi sho respekt to pipul dem. Wetin yu de shem fɔ?*

Why? You have no reason. You are a smart girl and very respectful, what are you ashamed of?

Ami: *Misef nɔ no... i at nɔmɔ!* I don't know, it's just so difficult!

Kadi: *Den na fɔ praktis. If wande wande den mek mi klas prifekt na yu go bi mi asistant!*

Then you should practice. If one day I am class prefect, you should be my assistant!

Ami: *O Kadi! A go gladi fɔ dat!* Oh Kadi! I would be very happy to do that!

Radio Discussions, discussants focus on:

- Gender discrimination;
- Importance of girls' education;
- Need for equal opportunities for girls and boys.

Open Phone Lines – LWL team to document feedback