**COURAGE POSTER SCRIPT**

**MOVING FROM DISEMPOWERED TO EMPOWERED**

**CHILD PROTECTION SOLUTIONS**

This script can be used to help you explain the Courage Empowered Child Protection Poster

INTRODUCTION

This Courage Poster helps you to understand the disempowerment drivers causing the child protection challenges in your community and then to develop empowered solutions to solve them.

In every community, child protection challenges are driven by different disempowerment drivers, however, we will not solve these challenges unless we change how we think about them.

The key is to think about what disempowerment driver is causing a specific child protection challenge and then to use the opposite empowerment driver to solve this challenge. This switch from disempowered to empowered drivers is illustrated in this poster.

FROM VIOLENCE & INEQUALITY

Violence and inequality relate to a breakdown in the rules of society which leads to anarchy, fear, and communities in complete survival mode. This can happen when there are high levels of social unrest, riots, violence, war, discrimination of all forms, conflicting belief systems and excessive poverty and inequality.

TO VALUES

In challenges driven by poverty and inequality where societal structures have broken down, the solution lies in building shared values and a belief set. This is the foundation of safety and security for communities. It also ensures that there is a shared focus on providing for the basics a family needs, including food and shelter. Building a strong sense of family and community belonging. Ensuring that law and order prevails, in an environment of equality and strong societal leadership, where all citizens know and agree what is right from what is wrong.

FROM EXPLOITATION

Exploitation often takes place where individuals are isolated and have no partnerships or sense of belonging to a family or community. This can lead to child protection challenges such as child trafficking, child labour, child prostitution and pornography, broken families, and broken communities where there is no trust or respect and often high levels of corruption and abuse of power.

TO PARTNERSHIP

Where child protection challenges of exploitation exist, the solution lies in partnerships, where community members work together with mutual trust and respect for each other. To ensure good partnerships one needs good communication, strong families with extended family support, shared community values, and government and community social partnerships driven by mutual trust and respect.

FROM LOW SELF ESTEEM

The disempowerment driver of low self-esteem is a result of having no self-respect or sense of personal responsibility, it can lead to a range of child protection challenges such as exposure to gangsterism and bullying. Children with low self-esteem often have no sense of focus or direction, no sense of personal identity, they often believe they have no choices in life and frequently feel shame for who they are and the choices they make.

TO HIGH SELF ESTEEM

To address low self-esteem, we need to build high self-esteem in children, where they respect themselves and take personal responsibility for their lives and the choices they make. The first step in building a sense of self is to help children define and develop a strong personal identity, to teach them to make good decisions for themselves and to help them gain focus and direction. This will lead to personal achievement and ensure that they take responsibility for their lives and to care for themselves and others.

FROM ABUSE

The disempowerment driver of abuse is typified by hate, anger, fear, and resentment. In environments where abuse is dominant people tend to use violence to solve conflict, they speak of hate and revenge and an inability to forgive others. Abuse is often driven by fear and anger.

TO LOVE

The solution to abuse is love and creating an environment of care, compassion, empathy, and forgiveness. In this environment people use love rather than violence to solve conflict, empathy is encouraged, and strong, loving families and communities are built, with peace and mutual care and support as their foundation.

FROM APATHY & ADDICITON

The disempowerment driver of apathy and addiction is often caused by a complete lack of vision or purpose. Individuals have no focus or direction, there is conformity and disconnection. People tell lies and are hopeless and helpless. In these environments there is no strong or honest leadership, and a sense of apathy is everywhere.

TO VISION

The solution to apathy, addiction and a complete lack of focus is vision, leadership, and purpose. People with vision have focus and direction, there is space for self-expression, people have freedom of choice and action. In these environments you find strong societal leadership and an abundance of innovation and new ideas.

FROM IGNORANCE

The disempowerment driver of ignorance happens when people stop questioning and just accept what they are told, there is often judgement of others and an overwhelming sense of dishonesty. In these environments there is no understanding of individual rights, people are judged for being different, there is no knowledge or insight, no monitoring, measurement or evaluation, and harmful cultural practices and corruption thrive.

TO KNOWLEDGE

The solution to ignorance is knowledge, daily questioning of the status quo, learning, insight, and the search for truth. These are environments that prioritize learning and education, transparency, and support of diversity and individual rights. There is monitoring, measurement and evaluation so that people know what the truth is and there is an openness to new ideas.

FROM NEGLECT

The disempowerment driver of neglect is driven by non-delivery, inaction, and a complete lack of care. In these environments children have no access to health, quality education, housing, or service delivery in general. There is no social support or care for those in need.

TO ACTION

The solution to neglect and inaction is to take action. Action is about delivery, possibility, sustainability and caring about the future. These environments are driven by a focus on the future, on the possibility that future can bring, on planning and access for everyone, on service delivery and on ensuing sustainable solutions for future generations.

HOW TO THINK ABOUT THE POSTER

The first step is to identify all of the big child protection challenges in your community and try to map them to the disempowerment drivers that we think are the cause of these problems in our community.

Ask yourself, “how do these challenges show up in my community?” One challenge could fall across several disempowerment drivers but try to think about which driver is most relevant in your local community context.

Once you have linked your child protection challenges to a particular disempowerment driver or group of drivers, you can then look to the opposite empowerment driver to think about how to solve the problem.

Instead of solving murder or attempted murder through creating more violence and inequality, we need to ask ourselves, how do we start to create values and a sense of shared commitment to these values.

Instead of solving abuse with more abuse, we need to explore how we can use love.

Instead of shaking our head at the ignorance that drives late termination of pregnancy or harmful cultural practices, we must start to think about how to empower people with knowledge and learning. We will now go through each of these disempowerment and opposite empowerment drivers to understand them better.

The key to this exercise is learning an empowered approach to solving child protection challenges, starting with identifying the problems, then the disempowerment drivers, and finally using the empowerment drivers to create interventions that drive meaningful behaviour change.

ENDS.