

## **D&K (EOAW) Foundation**

Deborah is an entrepreneur, inspirational speaker, author, gospel singer and also a humanitarian. She is passionate about providing a secure future to needy people especially in Africa. She does this through her non profit organization 'Empowerment of African women, (D&K Foundation) based in Finland and Africa. She has been active in various activities in both Finland and Africa.

The origin of EOAW which is a subsequent branch of D&Ks foundation was inspired and sparked by the very personal life and experiences of Deborah K.Funmi Mupapa. As a young girl she grew up in Nigeria where at a tender age of 12 years she was physically and sexually abused by her step dad. Despite going through all this she always maintained a positive outlook in life.

After several years of emotional healing, Deborah is now a strong, hopeful and happy woman who is living her life to the fullest. Deborah has a strong desire to help other women in Africa that are undergoing similar experiences and are not able to speak out. She has a burning passion and desire to help women a reason why she founded Empowerment of Africa Women organization (EOAW) D&Ks foundation.

D&K core mission is to change and restructure the common mindset of the world at large concerning Africa. This is done by offering a non political platform for both women and young girls where they get to achieve their personal growth and development. They also do this by laying a staunch foundation for women and girls as leaders of the future and enlightening them on how they can make a difference in their lives

## **Deborah K.Funmi Mupapa biography**

It's always encouraging to hear Deborah speak; contrary to people expecting a discouraged, depressed or heartbroken woman they are met by a strong, dedicated woman who stands to be the ultimate voice of women and children.

Her inspiring story tells of how she has been able to overcome her past and also how she transformed into becoming one of the strongest and amazing women today. She also talks of her journey as a great mother and a happy wife. Through her life changing story people learn to overcome even life's hardest situation and difficulties especially those who think they cannot make it.

Deborah K. Fummi has been very instrumental and served as the backbone of empowerment of African organization.

In her esteemed bid to ensuring that her quest is successful she has organized several events to promote the cause of women and children in both Finland and Africa.

### **Her journey and experiences**

For Deborah Fummi it has been an incredible journey. She narrates of how she feels when she sees her reflection in the mirror which is a feeling of success despite her previous life experiences. She also goes ahead to tell of how one cannot appreciate good health if one has never been seriously ill, neither appreciate the food if one has never faced a famine or even appreciate peace if one has never been at war. A brief ordeal of her life is shown below

'My mother left me at a tender age of 2yrs due to her second marriage issues, with this I couldn't enjoy my childhood. I was left with my grandma whom I came to refer to as my mum. Back then my growing was not very rosy, later at the age of 7 years I lost my grandma. This made me lose hope in life since my grandma was like an angel to me and losing her left an empty feeling within me. From then on my life started to turn to the worse and the whole experience started feeling like a movie.

when my grandma died, I was with her in a sleeping room for more than 2days. I never knew that I was sleeping with a dead body, I had no meaning of death at that time, I just woke up each morning played outside and later come back to sleep by her side. This was until people around the village came to check on her because she had not been seen for a couple of days and found her dead. People started crying but I couldn't get the meaning of that, I just knew she was sick that's all. I still remember her last words to me was that, Deborah try to share with others whatever God gives you as much as you can, she also said that I should know that God is in my heart as He is in heaven. I never understood the meaning of those words until I grew up and found myself in a real world.

After death had dealt a cruel blow by snatching my grandma, family members from different places had to come so that they could decide who would take care of me. Despite all these meetings no one was ready to take me in thus I had to be placed under some temporary care by an unknown family. While under this care the search for my mother continued. However while living with these families I faced serious challenges because I was used as a housemaid whereby i slept in stores where they kept their firewood and sheep. Sometimes i would experience severe beating and also sometimes I had to eat leftovers.

I was united with my biological mother at the age of 12, however my stepfather didn't want me in their house and my mother was powerless to change that course. This brought more and more suffering even in my mother's house since I was physically and sexually abused by my stepfather at 12 years old. I was so humiliated, and kept asking why I had to experience all this and who can take these pains away from me. I felt like I couldn't make it any more in life, I felt less of a woman and thought that no man could ever look at me because of all what I have been through in my life. Loneliness, pain and despair started to take a toll on me. I thought all my dreams were gone and wondered: why I was here at the first place? Those were very painful moments, but the very moment I realized that the point of every failure is to make me move on, I realized that each day of my life would always present a new chance. With this I have been able to move on and be happy I have also learnt not to look back but always focus on what to come. I also believe I have a mission to show the world how important women are. Education also proved to be my only way of my hope and I had to sell boiled eggs and yam to be able to pay my school fees. That was the only thing I had to do, since my stepfather hated me and he was not ready to pay for my school fees. Thus I had to do everything to make sure I finished my polytechnic in business Admin.

### **Her core mission**

Many people especially women and young girls can relate to my experiences and hardships. My mission is thus to ensure that women and children especially in Africa relate and learn from my experiences.

The world should abandon the strongest ideology of men first, young girls and women should also be highly considered in our society. My life experience has given me a big passion to work for humanity, because I believe we have one

potential energy to change the world and if we can provide the necessary tools to our girls and women around the world they can unlock their potentials. Also together if we believe in unlocking our inner potential we can make a change because change is in you.

By Deborah Mupapa