

Light of Maasai holds seminar on FGM in Rombo:

At the end of August 2009, the Light of Maasai (www.lightofmaasai.com) held an anti-FGM/alternative rite of passage seminar in Rombo, Kenya . With the help and expert guidance of the Cherish Others organisation, 70 young girls between the ages of 10-18 attended the 3 day seminar.



FGM is against Kenyan law. Light of Maasai is not changing Maasai traditions, we are offering education on FGM and alternative rites of passage. These seminars are run by Kenyan women.

The object of the seminars is to educate young girls on such topics as the background , effects , myths and misconceptions of FGM , the rights of the child , human growth and development reproduction health, gender awareness, girl child education, Hiv/Aids, drugs abuse, sex abuse/harassment, self esteem, family stability today, early marriages.

3 meals each day were provided and as in any other rites of passage ceremony, the girls received gifts and also a certificate to show they had attended and the subjects they learned.

Each girl wrote a letter expressing their willingness not to be cut. Of course, when they are out of the safe environment of the seminar, they may revert to peer pressure. If a percentage of these young girls decide not to be cut, this is a success that will grow, i.e. their siblings and their children (if they decide to have children) will not be cut. This will not happen over night. Our next seminar will be held during the Easter holidays for parents and during the summer holidays for another group of girls.

For information on FGM , please go to www.lightofmaasai.com