

# Meet Joy

We are supporting Joy\* at a specialist primary school for the deaf in Kenya

*\*not her real name*

Joy has a hearing impairment and lives in slums in Kenya with her mother.

Joy's mother is a refugee from Rwanda. She was engaged to Joy's father but he abandoned them both when he learned that Joy was deaf, such is the stigma of having a child with a disability.

Joy's mother has since re-married but her new husband, who is a casual labourer, feels he has already done her a favour by taking her on with a deaf child, and refuses to cover the costs of Joy's educational needs.



Joy's mother has a cleaning job in a nearby suburb to earn money for the family. In order to protect Joy, who as a child with a disability was particularly vulnerable to abuse while her mother was at work, she used to have to lock Joy in the house.

With the assistance of Rafiki Thabo, Joy was able to join a primary school for the deaf in 2022 where she is thriving. Now she is safe in school, Joy's mother is no longer forced to leave her alone at home and Joy—and her mother—now have hope for a brighter future.



To support Joy costs Rafiki Thabo £290 per year

Rafiki Thabo Foundation: Registered Charity No 1193124