



HOPE

THE JOURNEY OF THE SUDANESE LOST BOYS

Sudanese  
**Lost Boys**  
Association of Australia Inc



The Lost Boys and Lost Girls are unaccompanied Sudanese youth who were separated from their families and friends in Africa's longest running civil war.

They endured hunger, lion attacks, flood waters, gunfire and other dangers as they fled on foot to seek refuge in Ethiopia, Kenya, Uganda and Egypt.

Over 20,000 did not survive.

Remarkably, some were chosen to come to Australia. Safe at last from physical danger and hunger, a world away from home, they found themselves confronted with a completely different society.

**This is where their story begins ...**

## ABOUT SUDANESE “LOST BOYS” ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA

The Sudanese “Lost Boys” Association of Australia (SLBAA) is a not-for-profit organisation which provides recreational programs and support networks for Sudanese youth living in Australia.

All of our members come from refugee camps, having been fortunate enough to escape from war-torn Sudan. In the process, most of us were separated from our families, friends and relatives, hence, the name “Lost Boys”.

Despite our name, we do have female members within the organisation.

### PURPOSE

The goal of our organisation is to bring together the Sudanese and Australian communities and promote awareness and understanding of both cultures.

We also hope that by building relationships with the Australian people, we are able to establish an effective network for the Sudanese youth and to overcome some of the difficulties involved with resettling in a foreign country.

In addition, our long-term goal is to establish vocational training centres in Southern Sudan to help the Sudanese youth back home develop their skills beyond their secondary school education.

### OUR OBJECTIVES INCLUDE

- Overcoming social disconnection and isolation faced by young Sudanese people
- Opening channels of communication with police, state and federal government departments, community organisations, service providers, local government, the business sector and other communities
- Supporting newly-arrived Sudanese people to establish themselves in the community and assist with the process of bringing relatives to Australia, including emergency assistance
- Keeping Sudanese families together and kids in school
- Empowering young Sudanese people to become current and future leaders for the community
- Organising celebrations, sporting events and other gatherings to foster community connectedness
- Providing cross-cultural education for service providers

## PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES

***Sudanese Australian Youth Justice Project*** is a partnership project between the Australian Lost Boys Association, Victoria Police, Local Governments and Office of Housing . It provides support to young Sudanese Australian people living in Noble Park, Dandenong, Richmond, St Albans, Sunshine, Preston, Footscray, Fitzroy and Collingwood. The project addresses media portrayal of issues relating to the Sudanese Australian community, and in particular the young people within it as well a fostering relationships with agencies which help young Sudanese Australian people make positive decisions about their future.

***Appreciation Day*** is an opportunity to give the Sudanese community a chance to express their appreciation for the opportunities and support provided by the Australian community. Appreciation Day is marked by volunteers from the Lost Boys Association and its members supporting volunteering programs and projects across Victoria . This year members of the Lost Boys Association volunteered their services for the Collingwood Children's farm, the Red Cross Appeal. They visited Thomson Street, Abbotsford to cook lunch for the disadvantaged communities, and played soccer with the young detainees at the Juvenile Detention Centre in Parkville to. One of the highlights of the Appreciation Day is the celebration concert - a community celebration filled with food, music and performances showcasing traditional Sudanese dance, music, hip hop and Sudanese food.

***National settlement forums*** which bring together Federal and State Politicians, service providers and Sudanese community leaders from around Australia to discuss the many challenges and difficulties faced by the Sudanese community. This years forum will engage government and community leaders on issues concerning the Australian Sudanese community – particularly refugee settlement, social inclusion and Australia's engagement with events in Sudan. Representatives of the Sudanese community from across Australia will attend creating an important opportunity for engagement between the Sudanese youth and representatives from federal, state and local government, as well as community and business leaders.

***South Sudan Volunteering program*** is a unique program offering the opportunity for Australians to directly assist with the reconstruction of communities in Southern Sudan following the signing of a peace agreement in 2005. Volunteers in fields such as health, education, leadership, business, journalism, community development, engineering, environment and agriculture will work closely with the SLBAA on practical projects to assist communities across three regions of Southern Sudan.

Its short and long term objectives include:

- Organising skilled Australian volunteers to work in Southern Sudan with the SLBAA in community capacity building,
- Building meaningful relationships and links between Australian volunteers and the people of Southern Sudan,
- Developing advocacy opportunities for Australian volunteers,
- Creating a documentary of the program,
- Extending the volunteering program to countries beyond Australia,
- Building strong relationships with stakeholders in Sudan and Australia to establish ongoing support and involvement in the program, and
- Creating a Southern Sudan International Volunteering Centres.

## PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES

***Lost Boys” Leadership Training and Mentoring programs*** which develop leadership and communication skills for newly-arrived Sudanese young people from across Victoria, such as BurnsBridge Mentoring program of Sudanese youth by mainstream Australian students, including students from Melbourne High School.

***Cross-Cultural Friendly Soccer Tournaments*** to build positive connections with other cultural and refugee communities.

***“Lost Boys” Mini-Documentaries*** to educate Australians about Sudanese refugees and how the “Lost Boys” are facilitating positive social integration into Australian society.

### ***And other activities and initiatives including***

- Excursions around Victoria and other states to learn more about Australia and its culture, music, and social networks.
- Annual camps to promote a sense of belonging and togetherness amongst the Sudanese youth.
- Sporting activities e.g. athletics, soccer, basketball to encourage a healthy lifestyle amongst the Sudanese youth.
- Fundraising efforts such as screening of *Lost Boys of Sudan* documentary to help fund activities, office equipment, website maintenance and other expenses.
- Programs across Australia to increase the national profile of SSLBA and the Sudanese community in general.
- Advocacy and liaison with the Department of Immigration and Citizenship to help Sudanese youth leave the refugee camps and resettle in Australia, and
- Driver education program for Fitzroy Sudanese, supported by the Fitzroy Police.





Thankyou to the following supporters and sponsors

AMES

Australian Federal Government -Attorney-General's Department

Australian Federal Government- Department of Immigration and Citizenship

Australian Federal Government- Department of Finance and Regulation

Brotherhood of St Laurence

Burnsbridge

City of Melbourne

City of Yarra

Victorian Government

Victorian Mulicultural Commission

Victoria Police

Victoria University

*The Sudanese Lost Boys Association of Australia relies on the support of the community to enable it to continue its program and services for the Sudanese community in Australia.*

*Here are some ways you can get behind the Lost Boys and support our work*

- Become a member and join the SSLBA,*
- Be a mentor to Sudanese youth,*
- Work with the SLBAA over a period of 3-4 weeks in South Sudan on community development projects,*
- Volunteer your time, expertise or professional skills, or*
- Make a donation to any one of the many programs run by the SSLBA\**

*The Lost Boys would also love to hear from you if you would like to discuss other ways you can become involved. So if you would like to help, please contact us by*

***Mail:*** *The Sudanese Lost Boys Association of Australia  
P.O Box 125 Flemington,  
Victoria 3031*

***Mobile:*** *0416 335 163*

***Email:*** *akoc@lostboy.org.au*

***Website:*** *www.lostboys.org.au*

***Any way you can help will be appreciated. Thank You!***

*\*Please make Cheques out to "Sudanese Lost Boys Association of Australia Inc."*





Photo by Michel Lawrence

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