Child Abuse  
By Dylan Lonergan

Six year old Jess wakes up, and as usual she’s bruised and scratched badly. As she walks out to take her rare opportunity for breakfast, she hears banging and clashing, screaming and yelling. It’s her older sister and their father. As soon as their father throws Jess’s older sister out, they exchange whispers in their room. “We need help, but how can we get it?” sob Jess.

Daily, hundreds of children are seriously affected by child abuse. If one child is abused their schooling, health and wellbeing is affected as well. To most parents, giving their child a slap, or grounding them seems a reasonable punishment, am I right? But to thousands of others, starving, seriously injuring and verbally destroying their child’s minds with words no one should know is a reasonable punishment. ‘Punishment’ is a thing people use as an excuse to abuse children. I personally believe people abuse children because they were abused. That was certainly the case with my stepfather.

Generations are affected when an individual is abused. When someone is abused they are taught something. First, who are our role models? Adults obviously! And if it’s parents, grandparents, or for that matter anyone who we may trust abuses us, we’re learning from ‘our role models’.

When abused children grow older and have children themselves not only might they abuse their children, but they could also abuse their partner. When people abuse children, they don’t realise that they’re affecting many more lives than the individual.

Let’s face it. To survive in modern days you need plenty of money and as horrible as it sounds it’s 100% true! To earn money you need to work. To get a decent job you need the required social skills, and most abused children, as they grow older lack this extremely vital skill. Also, abused children can sometimes be angry and it’s not their fault. Abused children usually struggle at school. Although counselling is an option many children are scared to try. They feel their conversation isn’t private. When I started receiving help I was scared.

The costs to the community financially are HUGE in the long run when people are abused. Did you know in some places of the world there’s actually a tax to cover the costs of abuse? As I mentioned earlier, people who are abused almost always lack social skills and, it becomes very hard for them to get a decent job that pays nearly enough and since so many generations can be affected this problem can cause a major economic crash and major job loss. If children receive help, they could fight their personal problems as I did, and fix a major hole in the community, economy and most of all, themselves.

School is vital to anybody’s life so we must ensure that children receive education to get a decent job so they can live a normal and happy life. As a worldwide community we need to do much more to take a stand against child abuse, as it is not right to ruin lives or hold them back from their hopes and dreams. If we don’t try as hard as we can future generations WILL be affected. If we don’t put an immediate stop to child abuse there will be more abusive behaviour in our future. Abusive people only know one way to ‘discipline’ their children, by being abusive, as that was how they were taught. If the children do NOT receive help it WILL continue to be like this. It’s WRONG to abuse and it’s wrong to be violent to ANYBODY!