

# STUDENTS IN ACTION (SIA)



**MOULDING WORLD CHANGERS !**

**REVISED EDITION OF STUDENTS IN ACTION HAND BOOK**

## **STUDENTS IN ACTION (SIA)**

### **Meaning**

Students In Action (SIA) is a non-profit non-governmental organisation aiming at ensuring meaningful youth participation in developmental activities.

SIA strives to ensure that the youth provide a meaningful impact in their communities

### **Background**

According to the results of 2008 national population census, the youth in Malawi take a good proportion of the overall population. However, despite being in large numbers, they are sidelined in developmental activities. SIA believes that nations (Malawi in particular) can attain intended development only if the youth can effectively participate in developmental activities.

SIA has observed that a lot of youths are being misused in politics. Most politicians take the youth as weapons for fighting those people with opposing ideas. We, therefore, intend to redefine the roles of the youth in Malawi politics. We would like the youth to be taken as development partners.

### **Vision**

A nation where children are protected and educated, the youth actively participate in developmental activities, act responsibly, and meaningfully impact their communities.

### **Mission**

A non governmental organisation which is committed to empowering the youth, ensuring that children are protected, promoting good behaviour among the youth, and fighting against HIV/aids.

Students In Action (SIA) strives to position the youth in Malawi for positive impact. In a bid to achieve this, SIA intends to equip the youth with skills in different areas so that they can effectively contribute towards the development of their communities and the nation.

We also intend to ensure that the youth are given a chance to participate in developmental activities. We believe that the youth should work with government in developing this nation.

SIA targets children, students, and all the youth in general.

Our main areas of concern include:

- ✓ Education
- ✓ Youth development and empowerment
- ✓ Politics
- ✓ democracy and human rights
- ✓ Child rights
- ✓ Climate change
- ✓ HIV/AIDS

## **Main objectives**

In order to ensure that the youth participate in developmental activities, SIA would like to do the following under the following objectives.

### **1. Youth development and empowerment**

SIA intends to ensure that the youth are empowered in the following areas:

**A. Economic empowerment**

SIA would like to equip the youth with business management skills. Where necessary, SIA will be giving small grants to the youth.

**B. Entrepreneurship**

We have observed that there a lot of youths looking for jobs. We, therefore, would like to encourage these youths to start businesses. Not only will this lead to individual benefit but also community and nation development.

**C. Leadership skills**

SIA is determined to inculcate good leadership skills in the youth in an endeavour to generate responsible and productive citizens.

**2. Education**

We would like to ensure that all children have access to quality education. We would like to achieve the following under this objective.

- a. We intend to ensure that every child enjoys his or her right to education. We intend to ensure that every youth has access to education regardless of social status, sex, disability, and place of origin as stipulated in the constitution of the Republic of Malawi.
- b. We also would like to ensure that learners in all learning institutions have needed learning materials.
- c. We also intend to act as the voice of students. This is aimed at fighting for the plight of students.
- d. We want to promote the girl child education. Through this objective, we would like to ensure that a Malawian girl child

- is educated. We would like to fight against the negative attitude towards a girl child.
- e. We also intend to look into the welfare of students in learning institutions.
  - f. Students In Action (SIA) would like to help needy youths with school fees and other basic necessities. SIA believes that there are some students who are failing to go further with their education due to lack of basic necessities

### **3. Politics**

SIA would like to redefine roles of the youth in politics. In the past years, youths have been used as weapons of violence. Every time politicians want violence, they use the youth to propagate the same. We, therefore, intend to redefine the roles of the youth in politics. Among other things, we want the youth to compete in elections so that we can have more youth representatives in decision making forums; our aim is to have more representatives in politics.

We believe that having more youths in decision making forums will help us express ourselves.

### **4. Child rights**

Students In Action (SIA) would like to ensure that children are protected and educated. Among other things, we would like to ensure those children are protected from child labour, child trafficking, sexual harassment and any infringement that may put their lives in danger

### **5. Climate change**

We would like to teach youths on how they can adapt to the changes in climate. We also would like to help in the dissemination campaign on the same.

## **6. HIV aids**

Students in action would like to promote good behaviour among the youth. We also intend to fight against pornography. SIA believes that pornography is the source of sexual immoralities among the youth. A lot of youths are exposed to pornographic movies, magazines and pictures. Exposure to these materials leads to the following:

Early sexual activities which may result in contraction of HIV/AIDS and other sexually transmitted diseases

In fighting pornography, we would like to do the following:

- I. We would like to ensure that rules and regulations are made.
- II. We also intend to help the youth who are addicted to pornography on how that they can get out of this habit.
- III. We also would be involved in civic education; encouraging the youth to refrain from pornography.

Other objectives of Students In Action (SIA) include:

### **Unemployment**

Students In Action would like to find means on how the youth can fight unemployment which is now rampant among them.

### **Cultural preservation**

SIA would like to encourage the youth to be proud of their culture and then beauty of this nation, Malawi. SIA would like to encourage those good cultural practices.

### **Gender**

We intend to ensure that both males and females effectively participates in developmental activities

Studies have shown that a lot of girls and young women are involved in prostitution so that they can get money. Poverty has

been a major contributing factor to this. We, therefore, intend to empower these girls and young women so that they can start businesses.

## **STRATEGIES**

SIA would like to achieve its vision and fulfill its mission through the following:

- 1. Press release**

We shall be expressing our views on different issues through press statements.

- 2. Training workshops, seminars and conferences.** These are aimed at equipping the youth with different skills. Through these training workshops, we intend to educate the youth in Malawi in entrepreneurship and business management. We will also use this to equip the youth with vocational skills.

- 3. We** also intend to provide career guidance and motivation talks in secondary schools we want all pupils and students in all learning institutions to know their rights and roles in ensuring that there is quality delivery of education.