

Kadie Kaarter Ngele fled Sierra Leone in dramatic and traumatic circumstances. Her husband was shot dead and her house burnt down. She managed to escape to neighbouring Guinea to a refugee camp. Ten years ago she resettled in Perth as a single Mum with 5 children whose ages ranged from 20 years old to 6 years old.

On arrival in Perth Kadie immediately followed the advice of the Immigration Department to enrol in English classes and encouraged the older children to do the same. She enrolled in Graduate Studies courses at Murdoch University on a part-time basis. Kadie now has 2 degrees in Community Development and Gender and Cultural Studies. Her children have all gone on to great achievements through education.

At various times Kadie has made herself available to the United Nations Chapter in Perth to assist with incoming refugees who have suffered trauma and torture in detention. She is an established leader of the Sierra Leonean Community giving council to refugees needing support.

ASeTTS - standing for Assisting Torture and Trauma Survivors is an organisation that assists in providing services to people who are humanitarian entrants to the country or from refugee type backgrounds and have suffered torture and trauma in their country of origin prior to their flight to Australia.



Kadie has been involved in the “Healthy Relationships for African Families” project and in 2010 she volunteered to represent the Sierra Leone community in the steering committee phase and has a community educator role with that group. The voluntary role that she continues with the group ensures that families are educated about issues around family and domestic violence, conflict resolution and parenting challenges. She is always eager to further her understanding and education on these subjects and imparts her new knowledge to the broader community. She always works with enthusiasm and integrity to address the many challenges that her fellow refugees experience upon settlement in Australia.

To the family, choosing education as means to assimilate to the Australian way of life has been a benefit. Through that experience she has been in a position to counsel incoming refugees in similar circumstances.

As you can see – this is a very productive and successful family since their arrival in Perth. This does not just happen – it takes the ability of a very caring, capable woman like Kadie to create.

This just shows what can be achieved against all the odds by sheer guts and determination.