



STATEMENT FROM MEMBERS OF MTM BOARD SELECT COMMITTEE:

“No child should ever have to endure sexual abuse and it was our responsibility to prevent it from happening. We are so very sorry. When we learned of Macintosh Johnson’s heinous acts in June 2014, we immediately reported him to Liberian law enforcement and government ministries and took action to prevent such horrific abuse from happening again.

“We are now taking additional steps: McLane Middleton, a law firm with international experience and expertise in education and student safety is conducting an external audit of our organization, we are cooperating with investigations being conducted by our Liberian Advisory Board and the Liberian government, our Board Chair has resigned, and our CEO has taken a leave of absence.

“We are committed to ensuring that these matters are investigated thoroughly, communicating transparently throughout the process, and taking prompt, appropriate actions to be sure this never happens again.”

ACTIONS TAKEN AFTER THE 2014 INCIDENTS:

When we learned of Johnson’s criminal acts in 2014, we immediately reported it to Liberian authorities and took action to prevent it from happening again.

Date	Event
9/7/2013	More Than Me Academy (MTMA) opens.
6/12/2014	Nurse informs Director of Programs that student recounted rape by Macintosh Johnson and immediately notifies MTM’s Senior Leadership who notifies Board Chair
6/13/2014	Director of Programs reports the allegations to the Liberian National Police (LNP) and the Women and Children's Protection Unit after confirming abuse with two additional students
6/15/2014	Director of Programs notifies Director of Child Protection Services at the Liberian National Police, a representative from the Ministry of Gender, and a representative from the Ministry of Justice
6/15/2014	Johnson is suspended from MTMA
6/16/2014	Johnson is arrested based on a complaint filed by MTM Director of Programs
6/17/2014	MTMA notifies all Liberian staff, students and parents of what happened
6/17/2014	MTM liaises with government offices, including Sex Crimes Unit and Ministry of Gender, and brings in International Rescue Committee (IRC) to counsel and support survivors and their families
6/25/2014	MTM formally notifies Ministry of Health and Social Welfare; Ministry of Education; Ministry of Gender; Ministry of Youth and Sports; Ministry of Justice, as well as the Executive Mansion and US Embassy

7/30/2014	Government mandates all schools must close during Ebola outbreak
2/2/2015	MTM Academy reopens for faculty and staff after Ebola outbreak
2/15/2015	MTM revises child protection, code of conduct, disciplinary action, fraternization and whistleblowing policies. MTM introduces Child Protection Training with students and parents
9/7/2015	Johnson trial begins. Case is between the Government of Liberia and Macintosh Johnson
9/12/2015	First Liberian Advisory Board Meeting
1/29/2016	Johnson trial results in no verdict
3/4/2016	MTM learns Johnson died in prison while awaiting re-trial, reportedly of AIDS-related causes
4/7/2016	Student discloses to Vice Principal and Country Director that she was abused several years earlier by Cyrus Cooper, a current employee at MTMA.
4/11/2016	Cooper is suspended from MTM
4/13/2016	MTMA Vice Principal accompanies victim's parent to the Liberian National Police to report Cooper's abuse; the case does not go on to be prosecuted
4/13/2016	MTM notifies Ministry of Education
8/2016	MTM further revises Child Protection Policy and begins comprehensive review and revisions of all policies and procedures

ACTIONS TAKEN SINCE OCT 15, 2018:

- We've created a **Safeguarding** page on our website to keep parents and the community updated on our actions: <http://morethanme.org/safeguarding/>
- McLane Middleton, a US-based law firm with deep education and investigatory expertise is conducting an in-depth, external audit of our organization, including our governing structure and administrative policies and practices.
- The MTM Liberian Advisory Board has established an independent council to conduct an investigation. We support this decision and have offered our assistance and cooperation to the council as it moves forward with its investigation.
- The Liberian government is also conducting an investigation. We are fully cooperating with the Ministries that are overseeing this process.
- CEO and founder Katie Meyler has taken a leave of absence while the investigations are ongoing. Our Chief Program Officer has assumed Katie's responsibilities while she is on leave.
- Board Chair Skip Borghese has resigned to clear the way for new leadership.