



KADIE'S STORY

Kadie* is a young woman who experienced separation from her daughter while incarcerated. Her case highlights the need for gender responsive legal reform to achieve a just and equal society that respects and prioritises women's rights.

Kadie's Go Bifo Story

Kadie* was in pre-trial detention at the Freetown Female Correctional Centre when we first met her. She spent the next five years of her life in pre-trial detention awaiting trial.

Whilst incarcerated, Kadie's mental health deteriorated, particularly because she left her 7 year old daughter all by herself with no secondary caregiver since she was unexpectedly arrested at her home.

To support Kadie, our social worker conducted a series of psycho-social empowerment sessions. A family tracing of her daughter was also done and she was referred to the Don Bosco Interim Care Centre for girls.



“My daughter is my life, I am miserable without her.”
- Kadie.

In March 2020, Kadie's case was acquitted and discharged for lack of evidence. Kadie was provided with psycho-social counselling, transportation and other support to enable her to begin the challenging process of rebuilding her life after prison.

She was also encouraged to join the Go Bifo group. Go Bifo (meaning 'moving forward' in Krio) are post-prison support groups of formerly incarcerated women that were initiated by AdvocAid.

Kadie was awarded a post-prison business start-up grant in order to launch a small-scale food business (selling cooked meals). This small business has enabled her to earn an income to support herself and her daughter.

AdvocAid's social workers encourage newly released women and girls such as Kadie to join the self-organized group of formerly incarcerated women supporting each other and themselves through jewelry making and other small enterprises. The members of the Go Bifo groups are creating collaborative linkages with each other and driving forward the organization of the groups themselves.

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