

# Lerato

My name is Lerato. I am a boy of 18 years. My name means love.

I live in the village of Seboche.

I do not have a job.

I am not allowed to go to school because my uncle did not pay my school fees.

I am living with my uncle, my sister and my four cousins. He said that he cannot even pay the fees for all his own children.

My father went away to work when I was five-years-old but he never came back. My mother said he is probably dead.

My mother died three years ago. She used to work in the factory and she was able buy us food and pay for me to go to school.

Then she got sick. Me and my younger sister looked after her until she died. We used to get the medicine from the clinic and give it to her. My sister used to cook the food.

I have been sitting at home for two years doing nothing. I have only one year left until I finish. My friends invite me to go and smoke marijuana with them but I do not go. I tell them that it is bad and that I am trying to find a job and save money for school fees. I don't think I will ever save enough money for school fees. There is no one to help me.

I think that if I disappeared no one would notice and nothing would change. Why is life so difficult?