

## Dear Cynthia

Good for you! I'm really proud of you and your classmates. It takes courage to stand up for what you think is right. Unfortunately, I've heard many other stories like this.

Remember that although your aim is to help Loveness, you are also trying to change the way the school system deals with teachers who abuse their students. This is not an easy task.

Try to get as many people as possible to support your efforts and sign your petition – students, teachers, parents, youth and women's organisations, other people in your community and especially people who are respected and have influence (like community leaders, political leaders, and business people). Send a letter to local and national newspapers so other people and organisations know what you are doing. The more people who are behind you, the more likely the School Board will listen.

Another thing – don't worry if you don't succeed immediately. Change often comes about quite slowly. Don't feel defeated if you don't succeed this time. Every action, however small, which tries to change something bad, is already a victory.

**Auntie Stella**

# ACTION POINTS

- What do you think of Auntie Stella's reply? Do you agree with what she says?
- Are there any problems you have at your school or organisation or in your community which you want to change? Work together to make a plan. Decide what you want to change and who can help you. Organise a meeting, and make an action plan like this:

Problem	Solution we want	Strategy	Resources	Who's responsible?	By when
What is the problem?	What change do we want?	What must we do to achieve change? For example: hold meetings, talk to people who can help, organise a petition	What do we need? (like money, people to do the work or materials)	Who in our group is responsible for doing what? For example: <u>Fadzai</u> - organise meeting <u>Jeff</u> - make the posters <u>Linda</u> - help put them up	Date by when we agree to carry out the tasks, and when we want things to happen.