# Video: Nyan Deng’s podcast

## Transcript

## Nyan Deng, Client 1 speaking

**Challenging the gender norms in a single parent family.**

Hello there, my name is Nyan Deng.

I came here from South Sudan with my husband and three children two years ago.

I’m not with my husband any more so it’s just me and my children at home. I have two boys and a girl. They are all in primary school now.

My husband never really looked after our children. He thinks that’s the mother’s job. When I was growing up my parents didn’t believe in educating girls, so I stayed at home and cared for my family. I wish now that I had been educated, because I love learning, and knowledge really is power.

If we had equality between the genders then maybe my husband would have grown up knowing that dads can also care for the children. I think it would be better for us all now.

I’m new to this area, so I don’t have my family or friends around me to help look after the kids. My children are everything to me. But if I could share the responsibilities with my ex-husband, then I wouldn’t have to carry the load by myself.

And maybe I’d also have time to go back to study, so I can have the career that I really want. I do some part time sewing in the evening when the children are in bed. I have always been very good at sewing, but it doesn’t pay much.

I would really love to design my own clothes and sell them either at the market or in a shop. I’ve got so many ideas for new designs that I’m really excited about. I would really like to have my own business, something I have never allowed myself to dream about before. But first I need to learn how to use a computer and all the things you need to know to run a business.

My children really miss their dad and I think that they would all like to spend more time being looked after by their father. In fact, I think they’re all missing out.

The other day, I read an article by the University of Melbourne that said, when you teach children about gender equality, you can stop the cycle of learning bad gender stereotypes. The article said that children start learning about gender roles from a really young age. For example, they see that there are different toys for boys and girls, and that there are more boy characters in their favourite TV shows. All that can change the way that they think about themselves and what they can do in life.

I want to stop the cycle of gender inequality here with my children.

I’m teaching my oldest son Jaden how to cook Sudanese food at the moment and he loves it. And one day soon, Jaden will be teaching me how to cook, I can tell!

I want all of my children to grow up knowing that there aren’t separate boys’ and girls’ jobs and roles, but that boys can also clean the house, change the nappies and make the dinner too!

I want them all to be educated so that they can do whatever they want to do in the future and not be held back by the thinking of older generations.

**Links for credits:**

The University of Melbourne, Breaking Gender Stereotypes early: <https://pursuit.unimelb.edu.au/articles/breaking-gender-stereotypes-early>

Monash University, *Preschoolers’ Perceptions of Gender Appropriate Toys and their Parents’ Beliefs About Genderized Behaviors: Miscommunication, Mixed Messages, or Hidden Truths?:* <https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s10643-006-0123-x>