Every Wednesday, the National Memory and Peace Documentation Centre (NMPDC) in Kitgum organises a Film Exhibition & Debate. The aim of this activity is to provide the community with the opportunity to watch an educational movie, after which we engage in a discussion.

On July 3rd 2013 the movie *City of God* was screened. Following the lives of two friends, the film is situated in a Rio de Janeiro slum. Rocket and Benny make different choices in life, both lead by their living circumstances. One becomes a photographer, the other a gang leader. In an environment controlled by poverty, drugs and weapons, violence can seem to provide the way out of the favela: “If you run, they will get you. But if you don’t run, they will also get you.”

**DEBATE**

The conference room of the NMPDC, transformed into a cinema every Wednesday at 5pm, was crowded with young people. The majority of them were male and the average age was around 18 years old. Although some found it hard to follow the movie, spoken in Portuguese with English subtitles, many got the message:

“To be a gangsta you have to have a gun. You can kill beats with raps and not guns. In the movie they can get arrested because of guns, we don’t want that. Kill it with talent not guns.”

“Even when you are young they have a desire for power and to be a hero. You cannot be a hero from violence and killing people. It is not a kind of life that satisfies. Use of drugs and alcohol is bad for young people, even for adults. You can be a hero through education, business. That is the right way to go. Life is not easy.”

“In a city you get a lot of different people and when they join together it can be negative. It let us know what really happens in the slum area. In IDP camps people didn’t go to school. They wanted to drink in the morning. Here we only have alcohol, we don’t have cocaine or other drugs. People were drinking instead of doing something positive in the community. The Youth that are here can take note and say no I don’t want to be like this.”