***FEBRUARY 13th,***

***WHEN I WAS ONLY 16***

*This is a true story written by a student Megi whose mother became pregnant at 16 and decided to keep the baby. We wish to thank her for the courage to talk about her personal experience. Although there are many teenage mothers out there, not many are willing to share their stories.*

***'' For my sixteenth birthday I got a funny present from one of my friends. It was a pregnancy test. I was curious how it worked and at the end of a day I found out I was pregnant. I was scared but in that moment I wanted to have that baby. The worst part was telling my parents. It was a real nightmare and it took me a long time before I told them. My mum yelled at me, she cried, but that didn’t change anything. My parents tried to convince me to have an abortion, but I was sure that I wanted to keep the baby. They said I was too young, that the baby would ruin my future... I agreed with everything my mum said. She was right. But I could imagine a beautiful girl, how I combed her long hair and the things we could do together. In that moment my decision was solid.***

***The days were as usual, I was going to school, I was going out with my friends and everything seemed normal. But for me it wasn’t. My jeans were getting too tight because the baby was growing fast. In a few months even my mum started helping me and I left school. It got harder, because my friends weren’t there for me anymore. At first it was interesting for them, but then they went to parties while I was home, preparing for my baby.***

***And then came the day, 13th February. I was still only sixteen, but I was so happy, when I held my little girl in my arms. In that moment she was the most beautiful girl that I had ever seen. She had black hair and she was like a baby from my dreams.***

***First, I had a lot of problems with taking care of her. I didn’t know what I had to do when she cried, how to change her diapers and I was tired all the time. But I soon learned everything and I enjoyed every minute I spent with her. And when she smiled, it was all worth it and when she first said ‘’mum’’ I knew I made the right decision to keep her.***

***Now, when I look eighteen years back, I still know that I did the right thing and I have raised a beautiful girl. And in all my life, I have never regretted keeping her. ‘’***