



# AWARENESS AGAINST HUMAN TRAFFICKING

## MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 3 - MARCH 2014

### INTRODUCTION

We welcome our readers to our newsletter for March 2014! Like the previous months of 2014, March was very busy. We carried out 32 workshops in Nairobi, Narok and Kajiado counties. Our main story this month features one of our field workers, Winnie. She provides some interesting reports from the field. One was a story of how she met a recruiter for jobs in Saudi Arabia who was trying to disrupt her workshop and the other story is about another woman who used to recruit women who is now warning people against migration. We have also heard many terrible stories of human trafficking as we continue to identify and assist victims of human trafficking. We are continuing to provide information to our followers on social media in order to reach a larger audience with awareness on human trafficking and we are happy to report that our followers are growing in numbers. We would like to take this opportunity to ask you to help us reach even further by inviting friends to join, share messages, comment, like our pages. We were also fortunate enough to receive training from Kenya Peace Network and Volunteer Mission Movement International. At the same time we worked together in our network, Mixed Migration Taskforce, to provide training to journalists on human trafficking issues.



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One of our main events this month was to train about 80 human rights club students from the Catholic University of East Africa on human trafficking issues.

We are in the process of building a new website. [haartkenya.org](http://haartkenya.org) is therefore not available at the moment. It should be back soon.

## Reports from the field - meeting recruiters

By Winnie Mutevu

### #1 Disrupted workshop

I had the opportunity to facilitate a workshop for a women's group which was held in Makadara. The session went down well with good participation from the audience who raised many concerns. We answered and explained every point as best as we could.

The parents seemed to be very concerned with their youths. We got many requests to go and facilitate to the youths in schools and churches. More requests came to have us travel to their different rural villages and facilitate the same. This to me meant that the message was getting home and people understood the need for raising awareness on human trafficking.

At one point a lady in the audience came out very aggressively demanding for the sitting allowance for all participants. She went ahead to explain how she had closed her grocery shop to attend our training. I explained that HAART does not offer sitting allowances and that our training is voluntary. The lady was not satisfied and kept raising similar issues in an aggressive manner.

Seeing that this was a confrontation best avoided I called in the mobiliser, who is one of our grassroots level partners, to handle the issue.

Later on the mobiliser brought to our attention that the lady was recruiting ladies to go and work in the Middle East. The lady would get 5,000 shillings (about US\$55) for every woman she would deliver to the agency. This made us believe that her livelihood was threatened from the work that we were doing. We came to believe that she wanted to discourage other people from attending our workshops. When people are not aware of what can happen abroad they will more susceptible to agreeing to the recruitment tactics.



Winnie at a workshop where she was training a group of attentive young women from Fuata A in Nairobi.

Human trafficking is real and we have the recruiters and traffickers amongst us. This poses a great danger to the unsuspecting public. HAART poses a threat the livelihood of the recruiters and traffickers and we have to stay vigilant.

### #2 Changed life of a recruiter

HAART continues to organize workshops in Nairobi and its environs. We visit the communities most vulnerable to human trafficking and train them on human trafficking. Through the workshops we meet many different people and hear stories of human trafficking.

In early March I met Eunice\* who is a casual worker who does laundry at people's homes. She attended one of our usual workshops in her community. She was deeply moved by the training. She has been recruiting women for domestic work in the Middle East. Her job was to find women and take them to an agency in Nairobi. She makes 200 shillings (about US\$2) for each woman she is able to recruit. She got this extra job since she does laundry at the agency owner's home.

After attending the workshop she realized that she did not know what kind of situation the women would find when they arrived in the Middle East. She came to me and explained that she had recruited women for travel soon after. She begged me to offer similar training for the women. I was very glad to oblige. She brought seven women to HAART's office the same afternoon. After attending our training seminar all seven women decided not to leave Kenya.

Eunice has now stopped recruiting women. She has since brought another seven women who were destined for Lebanon. She is a witness to the kind of change that we want to see in Kenya- where we are able to raise the awareness in the whole community. She is now working against her own financial interest. She is risking her job at the agency and no longer earns money from recruiting. Eunice is fully aware of all this risks but is still determined to do what she feels is the right thing.

Her story is one that fills us with pride at HAART and it inspires all of us. Not only has she stopped recruiting people for dubious jobs in the Middle East, she is actively fighting against human trafficking with us. We hope that the story of Eunice will also inspire you to fight human trafficking and raise awareness of this evil in your community.

\* The name has been changed to protect her identity.

## Human Trafficking Scenarios #2

By Tom Young

Over the next few months HAART will present a series of human trafficking scenarios which we hope will educate our readers about how easily trafficking can occur from everyday situations. At the end of each scenario we will apply trafficking screening questions to determine if the subject of scenario has been trafficked.

### Scenario 2

Peter is 18 and has just finished high school. He goes out with his friends to a bar in Nairobi to celebrate. They are all excited about working, earning money and moving forward in life. A man comes and sits near Peter. He asks why they are all so excited. Peter explains that they are all ready to enter the workforce. They talk for a while and the man says he has a friend that needs a new worker on his farm.

Peter is keen as it a chance to earn money and get some work experience. The man says he will drive Peter to the farm to talk his friend about working there. Two days later they meet in Nairobi and head north. After they depart, Peter asks questions about what he will be doing and where the farm is. The man says it is normal farm work and his friend has the details.

They arrive at the isolated farm, many hours north of Nairobi. The farmhouse is very basic and Peter is told he will work seven days a week during daylight and remain in the house at night. He is told he cannot have a personal phone or call family and friends, as he needs to focus on the work. His wallet and ID are taken with the explanation that they are needed to process paperwork relevant to the work. He asks what he will be paid but no answer is given. He complains that the conditions are not fair and says he wants to leave.

He is told it is too late to back out, that if he complains again he will be beaten, and that he is too far from anyone that can help him. Peter works to the point of exhaustion for a month. He is in pain and unable to get up in the mornings, but is made to work in pain. Peter knows he is in an isolated location and is trapped.

1. Was Peter lured into this situation and deceived? – Yes.
2. Did Peter agree to do what he is being forced to do? – No.
3. Is Peter free to leave the work site and talk to family and friends? – No.
4. Is Peter physically, sexually or psychologically abused? – Physically and psychologically.
5. Does Peter have valid identification and is he in possession of such documents? – No.
6. Is Peter paid and are there any conditions of employment? – No.
7. Does Peter fear that something bad will happen to him, or to a family member, if he leaves the job? – Yes.
8. Has Peter been trafficked? – Yes.



HAART attended the Media Sensitizing Forum with the Mixed Migration Task Force in Nairobi. At the forum, HAART and other organizations trained journalists from the Kenyan media on issues related to migration.



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WE ARE ON THE WEB!!!

PLEASE VISIT US AT:

[HAARTKENYA.ORG](http://HAARTKENYA.ORG)

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Follow US ON FACEBOOK

[FACEBOOK.COM/HAART.KE](http://FACEBOOK.COM/HAART.KE)

### Upcoming events

- 16 workshops at the grass root level organized by our volunteers
- 9 workshops at the grass root level organized by our partners
- Assistance to victim's of human trafficking (VOTs)
- Anti-trafficking campaign in social media

HAART in social media:

Please visit us on our new Facebook account:

[facebook.com/HAART.Ke](https://facebook.com/HAART.Ke)

If you click LIKE, you will receive daily news feeds.

You can also get our daily tweets if you follow us on twitter:

[@HAARTKenya](https://twitter.com/HAARTKenya)

## Volunteers of the month



**Nairobi Archdiocese**

Simon Kuria Mwaura

Kikuyu Deanery



**Ngong Diocese**

Joshua Limpaso

Loitoktok Deanery