



AWARENESS AGAINST HUMAN TRAFFICKING

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 4 - APRIL 2015

INTRODUCTION

In April the main activity has been planning of Arts to End Slavery. That is going well, on our facebook page we have invited people and 600 have signed up. You never know how many are actually going to show up, but we hope that many will come. We are also expecting some of the major media stations to come and cover the event.

Aside from Arts to End Slavery we continued identifying and assisting victims of trafficking through psychosocial support and through economic empowerment. We had a 3 day training for about 20 victims on entrepreneurship, accounting and group development which went really well. We also had an interesting experiment with art therapy which came out of Arts to End Slavery. Khayundi, our counselor, worked together with Art2Be to use art as a form of therapy. We are going to have more information about that during Arts to End Slavery. We also had 11 awareness workshops primarily targeting the grassroots.

HAART was invited for a few workshops and meetings. Misereor invited two staff members for a training on financial management and we also had a visit from Germany to our office. We also had meetings with UNODC, IRC, IDAY, Mixed Migration Task Force, Walk Free Foundation. So it has been a busy month!



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#Arts2EndSlavery

600 people have signed up for the launch of Arts to End Slavery on 1st May 6-8pm at Sarakasi Dome. There is going to be art, music, live painting and some refreshments for the first people to come and there is still room for more! Please join us!

<http://on.fb.me/1EUooKz>

A thank you letter

By Anonymous

We received this following message recently and it was so heartfelt and tells you something about the emotions that the families and loved ones of victims of trafficking go through. So we thought we would share the message after getting permission from the author (who will remain anonymous) of course.

HAART did not really do a lot for this young lady since there is not much we can do when a Kenyan is trafficked to a foreign country. We can only forward a case like this to our partners. Luckily this young lady was rescued and came home.

From the message we also learn about why people continue to travel to the Middle East, because they hope that they will earn enough money to build a better life. But many times it ends in exploitation, abuse and tragedy. Luckily, this young woman actually came home to her family.

RE: Thanking You for All the Help and Effort

I would like to personally thank you so very much and also thank you on behalf of her family. For this I wish to tell you that she arrived in Kenya and we could not hide our tears of joy when we saw her at the airport. THANK YOU were the words that we whispering in our mouths.

It was a great challenge to us and even greater if you could not have given your very important help. You gave us your time are all the resources that you had at your disposal to help us within those trying times and above all by giving us hope by assuring us that you will bring her back to us. This is something that we will never forget. A daughter and sister that was lost and she has now been found. That will be as we remember you every time we see her.

We have come to realize that sometimes poverty can make someone very vulnerable to a lot of harm, abuse and a lot of other inhuman challenges that she found herself into. As her family are living in poverty and her completing of school is hanging in a thin string. But all in all life is more important.

Words alone cannot express our gratitude to what we have made you go through when I told you that a young lady is in danger in a foreign country, Jordan. You took the task and looked for her among millions of people who come to Jordan and in your effort you found her and gave her all the necessary assistance. Thank you very much.

Arts to End Slavery Schedule

Launch 1st May 6-8 pm at Sarakasi Dome (Opp. Ngara Post Office)

- **Exhibition at Sarakasi Dome 2-9th May**
- **Exhibition at GoDown Art Centre 11-16th May**
- **Exhibition at British Institute in Eastern Africa, 18-23rd May**
- **Exhibition at Kobo Trust 25-30th May**

**Look out for more events on
www.facebook.com/haart.ke**



This Ugly Giant

By Bethan Uitterdijk

I want to write about why I hate human trafficking. Dear friends, I don't profess to be the best person to share definitions and statistics, actually this last month has taught me that much of what I understood about trafficking was biased or incomplete, but as ever on this blog, I'm happy to speak up until somebody more eligible does.

For me, the trade of humans and the sexual exploitation industry went hand in hand. Whenever I referred to my specific passions for justice, I would refer to these two things simultaneously. A result was that my own awareness of trafficking began to get quite specific, my ears only perking when issues regarding prostitution were discussed. I've been happy to see that I am not alone in a growing uneasiness with modern day slavery (a term given to human trafficking, although disputed by a few) and notice momentum amongst other people around me too regarding the desire to see justice. Whilst women and young girls are targeted for this accelerating industry, so are men and young boys. The trafficking of humans has many outlets, the sex industry being just one of them. Another, potentially the most common demand in Kenya, is trafficking for labour. This includes domestic work, farming, fishing and construction. Classic characteristics are inhumane working hours, little to no pay and a lack of safety in the workplace. Another form of trafficking is for the gaining of organs. Often, the victims don't survive the procedures involved. Some organs stolen are corruptly siphoned into hospitals and to specific people in need. There too are myths that albino body parts bring an assortment of healing, including the healing of AIDS, thus making albinos vulnerable to being targeted for organ trafficking. Every part of their body is valuable to a witch doctor. Whilst these are the three main groups of trafficking, there's a collection we'll call 'miscellaneous.' This includes child marriage, recruitment for carrying drugs or arms, recruitment for forced crime, recruitment for gangs, and child soldiers. Whilst I am volunteering for HAART (haartkenya.org) I have been given the opportunity to contribute an art piece that explains a certain aspect of trafficking. Liberated to be passionate about more than just freedom for women in prostitution, I have chosen to focus on men that are trafficked.

So, why to hate human trafficking? There are many factors that

permit and encourage the continuation of the trade of humans, and the trafficking industry feeds and thrives from an array of components: lack of awareness, poverty and desperation. What angers me is that you don't need all these three factors to be vulnerable to trafficking. In fact, you can have awareness of the risks of trafficking; the risks of accepting a promising international job opportunity (although trafficking is not always across borders; it can be just across the street), but if you are hungry and have no means to survive day to day, declining any offer of work is a luxury. It was brought to my attention that, for some, trafficking might actually be an improvement to their state of life. If there is a child working all day their family and have no food, a trafficking job might just provide food alongside the gruelling labour it demands. The phrase between a rock and a hard place hauntingly comes to mind. Whilst trafficking can be as black and white as somebody being kidnapped, more often there is relationship that involves a complete abuse of trust. I've been surprised to hear of people who were trafficked by their grandparent and by their childhood friend. Which leads me to share something new that I've learned: anybody can be trafficked. I naively picture this niche group, subconsciously demeaning those trafficked to surely be foolish or impulsive. In working with HAART I've met recovering/freed victims of trafficking and have felt surprised at the diversity of the people recruited. Some men, some women, some well educated, some fluent in English, some with degrees.

Finally, the lack of risk for traffickers (corruption, manipulation and threat all contribute to very few traffickers being reported and charged) compared to the financial gain is a pretty unbalanced scale. Trafficking can involve a network of people (although not exclusively) that each take care of small details, building relationships, the forgery of identification documents, driving transit vehicles, corrupt border officials. My fear is that in and of themselves these jobs don't provoke a feeling of great responsibility or guilt and thus there are many people facilitating the fluid functioning of trafficking with little exposure to its devastating consequences.

By Bethan Uitterdijk, who was an intern at HAART during the month of February and also a contributor to Arts to End Slavery.

Follow her blog on bethanwitterdijk.weebly.com



Awareness Against Human Trafficking

P. O. Box 26893 - 00504 Nairobi
Kenya

Phone: +254 738 506 264

E-mail: info@haartkenya.org

WE ARE ON THE WEB!!!

PLEASE VISIT US AT:

HAARTKENYA.ORG

HAARTSTORIES.ORG

Follow US ON SOCIAL MEDIA

[FACEBOOK.COM/HAART.KE](https://www.facebook.com/haart.ke)

TWITTER [@HAARTKENYA](https://twitter.com/HAARTKENYA)

Upcoming events

- 10 workshops at the grass root level organized by our volunteers
- Assistance to victims' of human trafficking (VOTs)
- Anti-trafficking campaign in social media
- Arts to End Slavery!

Donate

We would be very grateful if you would support our work to end modern slavery.

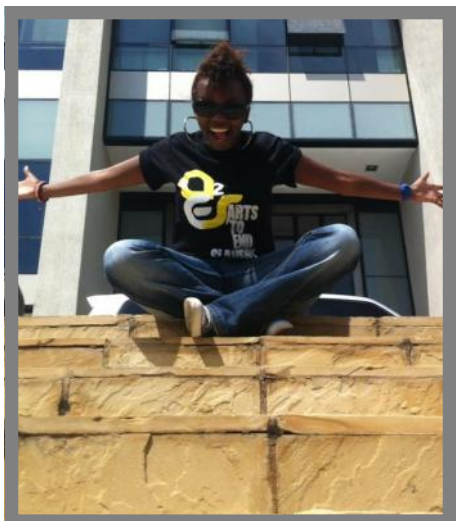
With your contribution we are able to prevent more people from being trafficked and to assist more victims of trafficking.

HAARTKENYA.ORG/DONATE

MPESA PAY BILL NUMBER:

823258

Volunteers of the month



Volunteer

Mercy Nguyo



Intern

Sophie Camara