



# AWARENESS AGAINST HUMAN TRAFFICKING

## MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 7 - JULY 2014

### INTRODUCTION

July was an exciting and busy month for HAART. A programme was ending and we were initiating another one. To evaluate the project that was ending, we met with each of our eight groups of volunteers in their communities and later brought them together for two meetings. We got great feedback from them about the achievements, challenges and future ideas for the HAART projects. We also managed to conduct 12 workshops and start an exciting new youth project dubbed Young@HAART. On 26 and 27 July, we had a group of 20 youths between 18 and 25 for training on human trafficking. They were given freedom to express themselves and came up with many new and fresh ideas for fighting trafficking. At the same time, we observed the first World Day Against Trafficking in Persons. The youths were working with our photographer, Rehema, to form hearts to symbolize solidarity with the many victims of trafficking. HAART's director, Radek, also conducted a workshop for our partner in South Sudan, SOS International. There has been an alarming level of trafficking in South Sudan because of the conflict. In the next issue of our newsletter, Radek will write about his experiences in South Sudan. In July, HAART also attended an initial workshop for juvenile justice stakeholders meeting. Many government agencies also attended and HAART had a chance to present on the important issue of protecting rehabilitated youths from being trafficked. HAART is proud to partner with the different government agencies involved, to provide a safe environment for justice and rehabilitation of the juvenile offenders. In this issue, you can also read about new research into the underlying causes of human trafficking in Machakos and another human trafficking scenario in our ongoing series.



### Young@HAART

The HAART youths were commemorating the first World Day Against Trafficking in Persons on July 30th. See all the pictures on our facebook page [facebook.com/haart.ke](https://www.facebook.com/haart.ke)

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# Research Summary, 'Trafficking in Persons in the Diocese of Machakos'

By Mary Aloo

## A research finding on human trafficking, conducted by Radoslaw Malinowski in conjunction with the Catholic Diocese of Machakos.

Human trafficking is modern day slavery that ruins the integrity of people and weakens the rule of law, human security and human right standards. Unfortunately not many people are aware of this problem. We shall present the finding from Machakos Diocese which is in the Eastern part of Kenya. The research was carried out by HAART's director, Radoslaw Malinowski, who was hired as a consultant by the Diocese of Machakos.

During interaction with the local people, the study realized that about two thirds had experienced human trafficking up to three times within a six-month period. This shows that the issue is real and affecting people at the grass root level. However, we also take into account that the people may not be fully aware of when trafficking occurs as it is hidden in many cases within a criminal act.

Evidence indicates that human trafficking flows from rural areas to towns, between towns and from one rural area to another. Among those that the study encountered, about half of the people shared that human trafficking starts mainly in rural areas and ends in towns.

From the reality on the ground it is evident that rural areas are the primary targets, followed by urban areas. Therefore in order to find a long term solution, counter trafficking prevention programs need to take place in rural areas where the population is most at risk.

There is also cross border trafficking (where the victims travel outside Kenya) and domestic trafficking (where victims remain in Kenya). The service providers have a responsibility to reach out to victims who are abused locally rather than attending only to those who have been trafficked abroad.

The research also showed that hardly foreigners are seen in Machakos Diocese. Therefore the majority of traffickers are Kenyans who are mostly female and in some cases male.

The Traffickers are familiar to the victims and their families and a majority acts as rich or middle class members of the society. They are sometimes involved in a criminal network, business, job agencies, or to a lesser extent truck drivers. The most affected victims are women and girls, with some men and boys also affected.

It is important to note that the popular means to recruit victims is through deception and the family usually plays an active role of pushing the victim into the trafficking trap with the aim of receiving financial benefits.

The issue of trafficking from rural areas to town was seen in a case of a 19 year old female victim. She was promised a job in Mombasa, but on arrival she disagreed with her potential employer and she decided to return to her rural home. Since she had no fare, a truck driver offered her a lift. It got dark before reaching their destination and they agreed to spend the night at Mtito Andei which is a small town between Mombasa and Nairobi. Unfortunately both the driver and conductor took turns in raping her. She was too scared to shout for help and even though people in the nearby shops heard her sobs in the truck they did not interfere. The following morning she had no option but to continue the journey with the same driver and conductor. This is just one of the

many cases that we encountered during the whole process of research.

The findings also revealed some of the underlying causes of human trafficking in rural and urban areas in the Catholic Diocese as follows:

1. *Insufficient (weak) rule of law:* There is a lack of counter human trafficking policy and inefficient response from law enforcement bodies. Lack of awareness among the law agencies and the increasing presence of criminal groups are some of the demand factors.
2. *Rapid socio-cultural change:* Lack of knowledge about the outside world creates curiosity for many vulnerable persons to fall victim of human trafficking.
3. *Shift in risk management:* Poverty and greed makes family members collaborate with traffickers to get money. AIDS has left many orphans who are easily deceived and promised a better lifestyle either in Kenyan towns or abroad.
4. *Commercialization of human life:* There is a lack of perspectives for the future. Women and girls are mostly seen as sexual objects. Since the system has no mechanism of checks and balances, there is room for corruption. The moral code is lacking and this makes the situation complex.
5. *Socio-economic factors:* Poverty and unemployment makes people easily accept job offers. There seems to be lack of awareness of issues to do with human trafficking.

## Measures the Catholic Diocese of Machakos can put in place to eradicate human trafficking

- Establish collaboration with other civil society organizations that will assist the Diocese in counter trafficking work.
- Create general awareness on human trafficking and employment laws.
- Provide victims with assistance such as socio-economic, psychological, legal and medical aid.
- Organize a more sustainable income generating projects for victims and persons vulnerable to human trafficking.
- Make use of the organized small Christian communities who already know each other well. Train them on how to raise awareness at the grass root level and how to identify and report human trafficking cases.

To find the full research paper go to

[haartkenya.org/htmachakos](http://haartkenya.org/htmachakos)

## Human Trafficking Scenarios #6

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 the scenario has been trafficked.

Grace is a 20-year-old woman from Nairobi who goes for a night out in town with her girlfriends. They go to a bar for drinks before going to a nightclub for dancing. Whilst she is on the dance floor with her friends Grace is approached by a man who asks to dance with her. Grace accepts. They dance for a few songs and then sit together to talk and have another drink. Grace's friends want to leave, but Grace likes the man and separates from her friends to stay at the nightclub to spend more time with him.

Early the next morning Grace wakes up in a budget hotel on a highway leading into Nairobi. She is naked and in the bathtub which is filled with ice. "Call a doctor or you will die" has been written on her chest with a marker pen. She also notices stitching to heal a wound down the left side of her abdomen. Her mobile phone has been left on the floor of the bathroom, along with her clothes and other belongings. Grace has no recollection of what happened after her friends left the nightclub or how she ended up in the hotel. In terrible pain, she calls one of her friends and gets help from the motel's Receptionist.

In hospital Grace learns that her kidney was removed during the night. Drugs are found in her system. Police establish that the kidney theft happened in the motel room. Grace is placed on a list to receive a kidney transplant and spends a month in hospital recovering from infection and other physical consequences of having her kidney stolen. She becomes extremely traumatised by all public situations and has to abandon her job and university studies. She never saw the man from the nightclub again.

- Was Grace lured into this situation and deceived? – Yes.
- Did Grace agree to giving away one of her kidneys and did she receive financial compensation? – No.
- Was Grace prevented from talking to family and friends? – Yes.

- Was Grace physically, sexually or psychologically abused? – Yes, physically and psychologically.
- Was Grace free to leave the man and the scene of the incident, and talk to family and friends? No
- Was Grace in possession of valid identification documents? – No, the traffickers had control of her belongings during the incident.
- Was Grace left vulnerable to further crime and at risk of being re-trafficked? – Yes.
- Has Grace been trafficked? – Yes.

More pictures from Young@HAART commemorating World Day Against Trafficking in Persons





Awareness Against Human Trafficking

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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

- 10 workshops at the grass root level organized by our volunteers
- Assistance to victims' of human trafficking (VOTs)
- Anti-trafficking campaign in social media
- HAART to evaluate awareness programme

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)

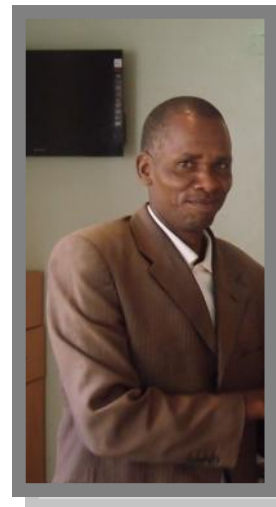
## Volunteers of the month



**Nairobi Diocese**

Michael Makori

Eastern Deanery,



**Ngong Diocese**

Samwel Sigei

Kilgoris Deanery