



# AWARENESS AGAINST HUMAN TRAFFICKING

## MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 5 - MAY 2014

### INTRODUCTION

We welcome our readers to our newsletter for May 2014! In May we had some technical issues with the story we were supposed to do with NTV. We are continuing to work with NTV and we hope that we can carry out the last interview soon. We continued to carry out workshops with our CJPC partners. In total we had 16 in Nairobi, Narok and Kajiado counties. Since we have approved funding for a new programme from Mensen met een Missie, we are planning two training seminars for our volunteers. They will be equipped to mobilize and train their communities on human trafficking. We were supposed to have attended a training seminar with International Rescue Committee in May, but it was postponed to early June. We are also happy to announce that our website, [www.haartkenya.org](http://www.haartkenya.org) is finally up and running. We still have a lot more to do, like edit and add content as well as find pictures and video. We are still waiting for funds to arrive from ElectricAid, who have approved our application. Once the funding comes, we will start our youth programme. The programme will equip two youth groups with skill and knowledge on human trafficking. They will then become volunteers and go to schools and other youth groups to warn against human trafficking.



The picture shows children from Kibera who were attending a workshop with our volunteer Julie Lee. They are being taught valuable lessons on how to avoid becoming victims of human trafficking.

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# She Promised me Heaven, but Took me to Hell (Part 1)

By Sr. Mary O'Malley

The next two months Sr. Mary is explaining her experiences with assisting victims. In HAART's work to end modern slavery, we identify and assist victims. These victims are often extremely traumatized and in need of basic protection. Sr. Mary is our project coordinator for the victims assistance program. She will meet the victims, listen to their stories and work with the rest of the staff to assist each victim based on their individual needs.

## What Victims of Human Trafficking must face on a daily basis

I had expected a victim of human trafficking to come to our office in the late afternoon. Early on in her story she really summed it up in one short sentence . . . . "She promised me Heaven, but took me to hell." When she said those words I knew that Anna had just touched the raw nerve of her very own painful and bitter experience. What can describe just how awful it is for victims of trafficking? It is often a virtual prison they must endure, maybe for years at a time. "I left my son at 9 years old, now after seven years trapped in Europe, I came back to meet a young man." In the words of many of them it is a 24/7 unrelenting hell. Even if they sometimes do manage to sleep a maximum of four hours, it is almost always of the fretful type with nightmares. Amid an almost continuous flow of tears Anna confided to me "clients may come at any hour of the day or night."

I squeezed her hand gently and after some minutes wiping her tears she uttered a very soft "Asante" (means Thanks). Then she proceeded to tell me more of her story. The stories and accounts of the trafficking experience are almost as varied as the individuals we meet, but many of them are young women. I sometimes think what makes them stand out from their peers is that they felt driven to escape from abject poverty and had a desire to better the lot of their families and siblings. How awful then to come back penniless and in almost all cases with no self esteem.

## Crimes Against Humanity

It is painful to recognize all the physical and mental problems one finds in victims of such horrendous trauma – endless stress and distress, severe chronic fatigue, constant fear, deep soul pain and a lack of trust in humanity. This is by no means a comprehensive list but simply an outline of the daily lives of trafficked victims, especially women and children. The United Nations estimate of 2 – 4 million persons trafficked annually ought to shock all of us, but what of governments? What do they know? Do they care? Some victims actually die in the process of being trafficked. What of missing persons? Discarded and dumped?

And who are the traffickers? There are hundreds of thousands of them also – when will they be exposed for Crimes against Humanity? If this was a war in Bosnia, Syria and other places, we would all cry 'let them go to The Hague' they must answer for their crimes, etc, etc.

Last year I took a temporary base (two days weekly) in Majengo slum which is one of the oldest in Nairobi and closest to the city centre. In listening to their stories, there were three young women who asked our Volunteer Trainer, Rashid Otieno to have me visit them in their homes. What could describe sitting on a stone in a woman's tin shack and hear the orgy of violence and humiliation she has been through? Over and over again these are some of the most overwhelming stories I could ever dream possible in human lives.

The whole of 2013 was punctuated by 'one-worse-than-another' of womankind's dark and devastating journey, one that will certainly stay with her for the rest of her life. "Having failed to get any employment here, imagine my joy when I was recruited to an excellent job as an ICT specialist, in Dubai. But next morning I found myself as a house help to a family in Saudi Arabia."



## Human Trafficking Scenarios #4

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.**

Mercy, aged 22, works at the cash register in a supermarket in Mombasa. She earns barely enough to pay for herself and her daughter after her boyfriend abandoned them when she was pregnant. She dreams of a better existence and better work. After a few days she realises she has served the same woman once a day for the last week. The woman keeps shopping in the supermarket and using the checkout that Mercy works at. They engage in friendly conversation and Mercy has no suspicions. The woman tells Mercy she works in transportation and moves goods to Dar es Salaam. Mercy says that sounds interesting and that she wishes she could travel. The woman gives Mercy a piece of paper that has a contact number and outlines a job transporting goods between Mombasa and Dar es Salaam. Mercy calls the number that night and speaks to the woman who provides further details of the work and the salary offered, which is KES5,000 for each return trip to Dar es Salaam, with half paid at the start of each journey and half on return. Mercy accepts the offer. She resigns from the supermarket before meeting the woman and another man two days later. Mercy and the man will travel to Dar Es Salaam by bus. She is given KES2,500 and a bag, and told to keep the bag with her inside the bus as it contains valuable electrical equipment. She is also told a house help will be sent to where she lives to look after her daughter.

Mercy and the man then board a bus to Dar es Salaam and she is told to use her Kenyan ID card to enter Tanzania at the Lunga Lunga border crossing. The man says he can't sit next to Mercy on the bus as he has a lot of important calls to make, but he briefs her on what to say at the border. They arrive at Lunga Lunga and Mercy enters the Immigration building after the man. He clears Immigration and waits outside with Mercy still in the queue. The Immigration Officer asks Mercy questions about what she is doing and where she will go in Tanzania. Mercy follows the advice given, saying she will visit friends in Dar Es Salaam, but the Immigration officer is suspicious of a young woman leaving Kenya

for the first time on her own and asks if she has luggage. Having always been honest Mercy says yes and the bag is taken off the bus and checked. Drugs are found inside the electrical equipment. Staff on the bus confirm the bag is Mercy's and she is arrested and imprisoned. The bus continues onto Dar es Salaam with the man aboard. Mercy claims the woman and man set her up but there is no proof and police don't believe her. She never sees the man and woman again and is left trying to make arrangements for her daughter from inside prison.

1. Was Mercy lured into this situation and deceived? – No. She was not forced to do anything by the woman and man that she didn't agree to.
2. Did Mercy agree to perform the work offered? – Yes.
3. Was Mercy free to leave the work and talk to family and friends? – Yes. She retained her phone and was not held captive by the woman and man.
4. Was Mercy physically, sexually or psychologically abused by the woman and man? – No.
5. Did Mercy have valid identification and was she in possession of such documents? – Yes.
6. Was Mercy paid and were there any conditions of employment? – Yes.
7. Did Mercy fear that something bad will happen to her, or to a family member, if she leaves the job? – No. Only after her involvement with the woman and man ended and she was in prison was she worried about her daughter.
8. Has Mercy been trafficked? – No. She was unfortunately used to smuggle drugs into Tanzania, but agreed to the work offered and was not forced to do anything against her will by the woman and man.



Awareness Against Human Trafficking

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PLEASE VISIT US AT:

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

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### Upcoming events

- 20 workshops at the grass root level organized by our volunteers
- Assistance to victims' of human trafficking (VOTs)
- Anti-trafficking campaign in social media
- Story about internal trafficking to air on NTV Kenya
- HAART to participate in new network to combat trafficking.
- 2 training seminars for volunteers.

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



**Ngong Diocese**  
Charles Masangir  
Loitoktok deanery



**Nairobi Diocese**  
William Ojwang  
Eastern Deanery