



AWARENESS AGAINST HUMAN TRAFFICKING

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 2-FEBRUARY 2014

INTRODUCTION

We welcome our readers to our newsletter for February 2014! The second month of the year was very busy. We carried out 29 workshops in Nairobi, Narok and Kajiado counties. This is a lot more that we are used to and in the process we reached about 1,400 people directly. We are also continuing to identify and assist victims of human trafficking, and you can read of one such case in this issue one page 2 - three children who were trafficked by an alleged Bishop of a school. There are numerous ways in which we help the victims. One is to provide microfinance grants for small businesses, in order to provide a help for trafficked people after they have returned from being exploited. For that we held one-day workshops for eight victims who were in small business. We are continuing to provide human trafficking awareness information to our followers on social media in order to reach a larger audience. During this month one of our main events was a photo exhibition of the photos taken by our youth group who participated in the Photography for Nairobi Project. It was a good event with nearly 200 guests attending during the weekend in Ngong. One page three we will share some trafficking scenarios and on page four we present the volunteers of the month.



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Pictures above are from different activities that HAART carried out in February.

Our main activity that attracted nearly 200 people was the Photo Exhibition in the Catholic Parish in Ngong. The exhibition itself is a part of Photography for Nairobi Project—a joined initiative of HAART and Adam Balcerek—a Polish Photographer.

HAART, through the Photography for Nairobi Project, was nominated for the finals of the Traveller Award of 2013—organized by National Geographic!



In February, thanks to our intervention, Kenyan police arrested a trafficker and saved one victim!

More details on page two!

‘Bishop’ arrested and charged with child trafficking

By Jakob Christensen

At HAART we see many cases of human trafficking, where traffickers exploit the desperation of people in need of a job or, as in this case, where a mother desperately wanted her children to go to school.

Joyce* has six children. In 2012 when her husband died and her youngest was merely five months old, her brother-in-law sold their land and chased her and the children away. Living now on a daily wage of 230 Kenyan Shillings (about US\$2.50) from her work on a coffee plantation, she must feed herself and her six children, and the basic necessities of life are difficult to afford.

Land grabbing by relatives is an injustice that happens every day in many African countries, creating homelessness and desperate situations for widows and their children. Traffickers can be anyone and they prey on these types of situations by offering solutions that seem too good to be true. For Joyce, this person was a ‘Bishop’ who happened to be in her village to preach. He offered to take three of her children to his boarding school in Kibera. Joyce trusted the Bishop with Peter aged 7, Maureen aged 9 and Patrick aged 12 who were sent to the school with the Bishop. Joyce was relieved that her children would be going to school.

However, her relief lasted only a few days and was replaced with shock and horror as Maureen had escaped from the boarding school with another girl who came from the same village, and they brought terrible stories. The stories are a little foggy and there are many details missing due to Maureen being traumatized from the situation where she now hardly eats or plays like other children her age. She made her escape one night at around 9 pm after having seen her brother Patrick being beaten badly by the Bishop. Maureen saw big bruises and welts on Patrick’s body. Maureen and the other girl were supposed to go an unknown location with a lady connected to the Bishop, but they refused and ran away. They were found by a woman who sheltered them for the night and took them to the Chief the next morning. He sent them back to their village on a matatu. Joyce was shocked to see Maureen coming back and was horrified to find out that her two sons had also escaped after being mistreated by the same Bishop she had trusted with the life and welfare of her children. The other girl was beaten by her mother and sent back to school. It is very difficult to locate the two boys who had run away together since Joyce did not have any current pictures of her children. After some weeks, however, Peter was found in a government run children’s home. The authorities are still refusing to allow for a return of Peter to his mother because Joyce is not in possession of an ID card or the proper paperwork. Peter’s story is very incoherent and it is not possible to get much out of him, but it appears that he was taken to another part of Nairobi and made his escape, but the how, when and what of the story is still a mystery. Moreover, Patrick is still missing.

Exactly what happened to the children and why Patrick was beaten is not yet confirmed. However, the children were traumatized during their short stay with the Bishop. There are also indications that the children were to be sent to other parties within the Bishop’s network for some kind of exploitation.



Street children in Africa from The Guardian newspaper. Photograph: Alamy

After Maureen came back to her mother’s village Joyce visited her Aunt who is a good friend of one of HAART’s volunteers, Agnes, who then referred the case to us. Our field staff worked together with the local Children’s Department in Kibera and Kilimani Police on the case to find the children and charge the Bishop with human trafficking. We still have not been able to find Patrick who unfortunately is still missing and most likely deeply traumatized.

It can sometimes be difficult to work with the police and other local authorities in Kenya, but in this case we have to give credit to Children’s Department and Kilimani Police who, based on our field staff’s constant visits, were able to arrest and charge the Bishop with neglect and child trafficking.

We are still looking for Patrick and we are trying to work with the authorities to release Peter so he can go home to his mother. However, before the securities will release Peter they have to do some ground work to ascertain his safety and security. We are still working on the case to see what kind of assistance we can provide to Joyce, Maureen and Peter, and hopefully also Patrick when we find him. Unfortunately we do not have a picture of Patrick which makes it a lot more difficult to locate him. We always urge parents to keep current pictures of their children in case they go missing.

** All names in this story are made up to protect the identities of those involved.*

Human trafficking Scenarios #1

By Tom Young

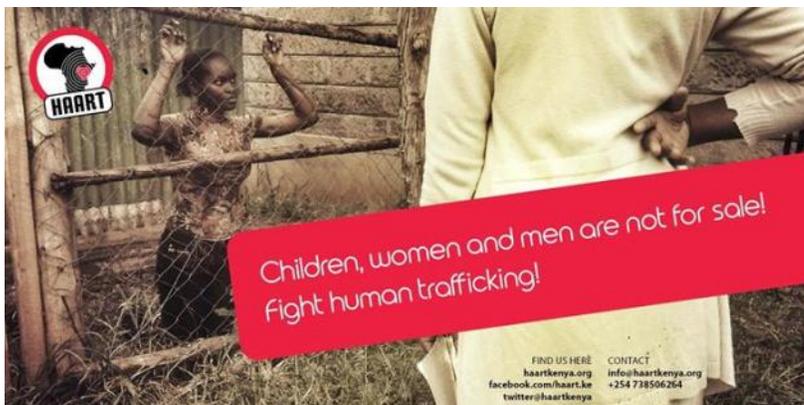
Over the next few months HAART will present a series of human trafficking scenarios which we hope will educate our readers about how easily trafficking can occur from everyday situations. At the end of each scenario we will apply trafficking screening questions to determine if the subject of scenario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

Scenario 1

Mary, 20 years old, lives in Kitale. She lives with her mother and three younger sisters after her father passed away. She is a Waitress and the main income earner at home, but cannot earn enough for rent, food and school fees. She decides to move to Nairobi to work, with the intention of sending money home to her mother. She saves up for the journey and seven night's accommodation at a girl's hostel. Each day she looks at the job vacancies notices at Odeon, on the corner of Tom Mboya Street and Latema Road in central Nairobi. On the third day, a woman called Eunice approaches her and says she has seen her each day from across the road where she works. Mary tells Eunice she needs work and accommodation. Eunice says she has a spare room and knows someone in an Accounting firm. Mary is interested, goes to live with Eunice, and an interview is arranged for the following week. Mary starts to make friends with Eunice and feels welcome in her flat. As their relationship grows Mary tells Eunice more about herself, including where she is from and about her mother and sisters. On the day of the interview, Mary wears her best clothes and arrives at the Accounting firm office in town nice and early. Eunice told Mary the interview location is being rented for interviews, and won't look like a proper office. Mary waits in the lobby at the building, and is then invited

into a ground floor office at the rear of the building by a woman for the interview. The job is explained before Mary, aware of contracts, workers rights and taxation, starts asking about salary, working hours and tax rates. At this point the interviewer becomes disinterested and two men enter the room. They grab Mary and put her in a van with no windows in the adjacent alley. She is driven to a house somewhere in Nairobi, stripped of her clothes, phone and belongings, and told by the men "you work for us now." She is beaten for resisting and confined to a room in the house. Mary is then forced to work as a prostitute in the house and is not allowed to leave or contact anyone she knows. She is told if she ever tries to escape or talks to anyone about being the house, including the men she services, her sisters will also be brought to the house. Mary never saw Eunice again.

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



We have finalized the design for our new anti-trafficking banner both this one and another with the text in Swahili. We are thankful to Agatka Kubien for making the design and to our volunteer Betty for being the face of the campaign.



Awareness Against Human Trafficking

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WE ARE ON THE WEB!!!

PLEASE VISIT US AT:

HAARTKENYA.ORG

Follow US ON FACEBOOK

FACEBOOK.COM/HAART.KE

Upcoming events

- 16 workshops at the grass root level organized by our volunteers
- 12 workshops at the grass root level organized by our partners
- Assistance to victims 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

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

Julie Lee

Central Deanery



Ngong Diocese

Brian Maina

Ngong Deanery