



AWARENESS AGAINST HUMAN TRAFFICKING

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 7 - JULY 2015

INTRODUCTION

July was the last month of Arts to End Slavery, and it has been an amazing experience for us. You can read a blog post thanking everyone who has contributed there is also a sort of overview of the activities we have had over the course of the past three months. The big event in July was on the World Day against Trafficking in Persons on the 30th July which was also the last day of Arts to End Slavery. We partnered with PAWA254 and UNODC to mark the day with the art exhibition, film screening, a panel discussion and a poetry session. All in all it was a very successful evening with a about 130 participants. The event was under the theme: "Countering Violent Extremism and the Provision of Assistance to Victims of Trafficking" We did not have any speeches, but rather had interactions with the participants who had questions that the panel answered and discussed. Aside from representatives from HAART and UNODC, IGAD was also represented on the panel by the Regional Migration Coordinator, Caroline Njuki, who were able to give a regional perspective to the discussions.

Aside from that event, the month was characterized by a lot of planning for the rest of the year and working together with partners on other events. On July 1st and 2nd, we were at the All Africa Conference of Churches to facilitate at a conference on human trafficking at the same time we were also facilitating another training on human trafficking for the Kenya Conference of Catholic Bishops. We were meeting our volunteers and partners for training and planning sessions for the upcoming workshops. We are also continuing to provide assistance to victims of trafficking.

In this issue you can read about the new Trafficking in Persons report by the US State Department and read our final message about this years' Arts to End Slavery.



PAWA Salon on the World Day against Trafficking in Persons

On July 30th we partnered with PAWA254 and UNODC to use Arts to End Slavery to mark the World Day against Trafficking in Persons. The place was completely packed and it was a great occasion for discussing what we can do to #FightHumanTrafficking. See pictures on www.facebook.com/haart.ke

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Reflections on the TIP 2015 on the World Day against Trafficking in Persons

By Jakob Christensen

“Kenya is a source, transit, and destination country for men, women, and children subjected to forced labor and sex trafficking.”

That is how the annual Trafficking In Persons (TIP) report’s section on Kenya starts. The 2015 report was released a few days ago just in time for the World Day against Trafficking in Persons on the 30th July 2015. The big news this year is that after three years on the Tier 2 Watch List, Kenya has been upgraded to Tier 2. That means that Kenya now, according to the US State Department, do not fully comply with the Trafficking Victims Protection Act’s minimum standards, but are making significant efforts to bring themselves into compliance with those standards.

Some of the achievements that are mentioned, are that the Kenyan government has increased the identification of victims of trafficking as well as prosecution of traffickers. According to the report, 65 trafficking cases were prosecuted and 33 traffickers convicted. However, a quick note to that report is that we have not heard of any of these prosecutions in the press or through any of our partners, it would be good if there is a bit more transparency. It would also be good to know if the prosecutions are based on the Counter Trafficking in Persons Act from 2010 or other related laws. We have not heard of any successful convictions based on the Act, but we would love to learn more about it. The government identified 658 child trafficking cases and at least 12 adult trafficking cases exploited overseas. Regarding the 12 cases is a bit lacking as we identified 31 victims of trafficking together with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in December 2014 who had all been exploited in Libya. This underlines the poor information sharing and general confusion when it comes to human trafficking in Kenya.

The report also highlights the establishment of the Counter Trafficking Advisory Committee which is chaired by our partner The Cradle – the Children Foundation and the launch of the National Action Plan to Combat Human Trafficking. These activities show a heightened effort of the Kenyan government to take action against human trafficking. However, there are many areas that are still lacking, especially when it comes to providing comprehensive assistance to victims of trafficking, and especially adult victims of trafficking. There are few if any safe houses dedicated to victims of trafficking, the area of human trafficking is still embarrassingly underfunded and although the government assist with repatriation, the assistance usually end when the victim reach the airport in Kenya as seen in the quote below:

“The Kenyan embassy in Muscat assisted with the repatriation of a Kenyan woman from Oman; however, the government failed to provide the victim any assistance upon her return to Kenya. Generally, the government lacked a unified system for providing access to medical aid, shelter, counseling, or financial assistance to adult nationals who were repatriated.”

We saw the same pattern when we worked together with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA) to rescue the women in Libya. Although the MoFA did an excellent job in bringing back the women from Libya, there was a lack of response from the government when they arrived in Kenya, so the shelter, reintegration, psychosocial support etc. was instead provided by ourselves together with IOM.

On this day, the World Day against Trafficking in Persons, we must all remember the victims of human trafficking. For instance, there was recently a report out of Kisumu of how underage girls are trafficked into the sex trade in Kisumu and sold for 50 shillings or boys that are trafficked into violent extremism. Victims are robbed of their innocence and exploited in cruel and inhumane ways.



Thank you for Everything

By Jakob Christensen

After we had the final event on July 30th on the World Day against Trafficking in Persons, Arts to End Slavery is now over, at least for now. The response for the project has been absolutely overwhelming and we are beyond grateful.

In total we worked with more than 30 artists who produced more than 50 pieces of art for our art project that lasted 3 months reaching many hundreds of people all over Nairobi. We had in total 4 weeks of exhibitions and in total 10 events. For those that don't remember, here is a look at all the events for Arts to End Slavery:

- 1st May, launch of Arts to End Slavery at Sarakasi Dome. It was an amazing event with art, music, entertainment and refreshments. About 400 people turned up for the event.
- 13th, 14th and 15th May, HAART organized workshops on human trafficking using the art exhibition at the GoDown Art Centre.
- 18th May, HAART organized an academic panel discussion discussing human trafficking at the British Institute in Eastern Africa.
- 25th May, HAART partnered with the Kobo Trust to hold an art event with lots of entertainment, drinks and food.
- 15th June, HAART took Arts to End Slavery exhibition to the Technical University of Kenya and had a workshop with students.
- 26th June, HAART hosted its first national human trafficking conference at PridelInn in Westlands.
- 3rd July, HAART took Arts to End Slavery exhibition to the Technical University of Kenya and had a workshop with students.
- 30th July, HAART partnered with UNODC and PAWA to use Arts to End Slavery to commemorate the World Day against Trafficking in Persons. At the event we screened a few films and had a panel discussion.

We are so grateful for everyone who has supported the project by coming for exhibitions and events. It has been an amazing turnout.

We are also thankful for the donors for this project which are Misereor, GIZ, the Civil Peace Service, German Cooperation and the Austrian Embassy.

We could not have done this project without our visual artists and the performance artists who volunteered for the project by

creating beautiful art pieces and performing music, dance, poetry and much more at the events. To work with such an array of talent was truly remarkable.

The response from our partners has been quite overwhelming and we could not have done it without them: The Kobo Trust, Sarakasi Trust, the British Institute in Eastern Africa, the Go-Down Art Centre, the Technical University of Kenya, the Technical University of Kenya, PAWA254, UNODC, Art2Be, Pix Studios and Project Studio Creations helped us with different events. We would also like to thank IOM, the Cradle, the Counter Trafficking Advisory Committee, Trace Kenya and IGAD for participating in panel discussions.

Developing, planning and executing all of these events and exhibitions takes a lot of man power and we have been absolutely blessed with some amazing volunteers. Firstly, I would mention the youths from Young@HAART organized by Winnie Mutevu who have been heroes in this process, they carried the art, sat in during the exhibitions and events and then took down the art and moved it to the next place. I will also mention some of the key volunteers who made this project happen, Grace Mwendu, Rehema Baya, Mercy Nguyo and Sophie Otiende.

Thank you everyone for making Arts to End Slavery a reality!





Awareness Against Human Trafficking

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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
- Research on sex trafficking

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:

Volunteers of the Month



This month we are recognizing the Young@HAART team for the exceptional work with Arts to End Slavery!