



# AWARENESS AGAINST HUMAN TRAFFICKING

## MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

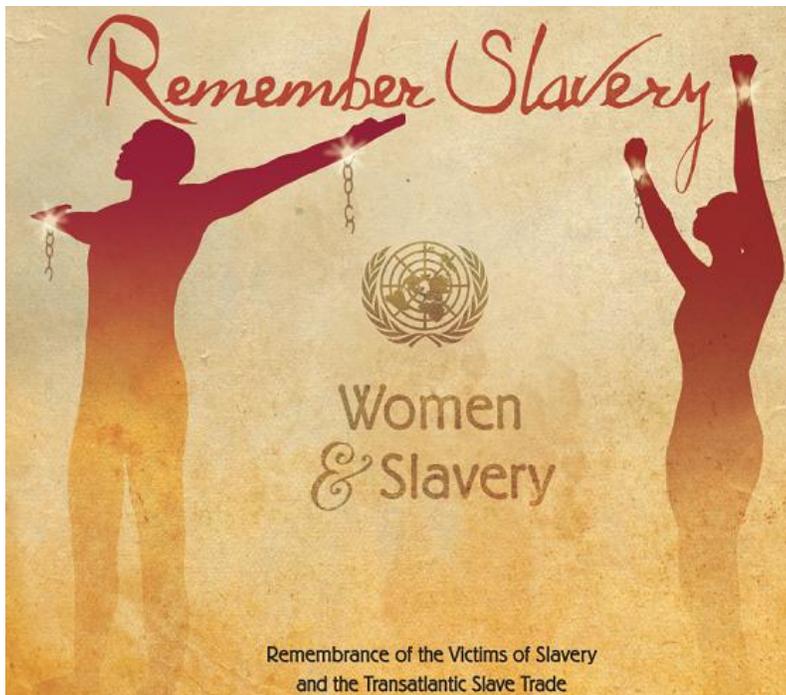
ISSUE 3 - MARCH 2015

### INTRODUCTION

In March we continued identifying and assisting victims of trafficking through psychosocial support and through economic empowerment. In March we had a busy month and we had 17 awareness workshops primarily targeting the grassroots that reached 572 people of which 215 were men and 357 were women.

In the beginning of the month, HAART was asked by the Kenya Conference of Catholic Bishops to conduct trainings on human trafficking for representatives for different dioceses in Kenya. On the 25th March, HAART was invited by UNESCO to talk at a roundtable discussion on human trafficking at the UN compound in Nairobi. You can read more about it below.

We are still working very hard to realize Arts to End Slavery (A2ES) and you can read two stories about the planning in this feature. We will send out a special email soon with more information and invitation to be a part of the project and come for the exhibitions. In this newsletter you can also read a new story on HAARTstories.org which was published as an opinion piece in Daily Nation. The story is about pupils who fail exams and are being forgotten by the society. They can therefore become easy targets for traffickers.



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#### HAART at the UN

On the 25th March it was the International Day of Remembrance of the Victims of Slavery and the Transatlantic Slave Trade and HAART was invited by UNESCO to speak about our experiences with Modern Day Slavery within the theme 'Women and Slavery'.

## Pay attention also to pupils who fail exams

By Sophie Otiende

*A shortened version of this story was published in Daily Nation on March 12 2015, read it here <http://bit.ly/1MzfMHz>*

Every year we rightly celebrate the few students who did very well in the KCPE and KCSE. However, there is a tendency to forget the number of people who did not get the right grades to get into university or high school. Those students are reduced to a number and nobody wants to talk about it. We have decided that since they will not go on to high school and university and become doctor or engineers we should not concern ourselves with their stories, their hopes or their dreams. In our society that esteems formal education as the only path to success. They are still teenagers and should have their best years ahead of them, but they risk becoming a part of a forgotten generation of losers.

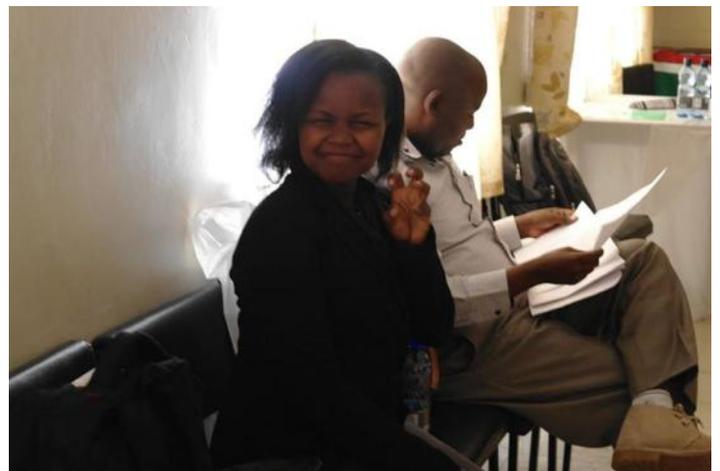
Our education system is deeply flawed where the skills you need are offered after high school. That means that most of the students at this point will remember pointless facts for their exams, but not have valuable skills they need in their lives. Skills like how to critically assess a situation, a contract or an offer to verify its validity has not yet been taught. Aside from having their hopes and dreams burst, they are increasingly at risk of being victims of human trafficking. Human trafficking is the trade of women, men and children for the purposes of exploitation.

Anyone can become victims of human trafficking as we have seen with the engineers who were trafficked to Angola, but it is more often the case that unemployed youths and single mothers are being targeted for trafficking scenarios such as forced labor and forced prostitution.

We need to diversify our definition of success in the society. Not everyone can become a doctor, pilot or engineer and realistically not everyone should. We also need people in many other fields. It is not the individual student who has failed; it is our system which has failed them. The life options for children without the motivation or capacity for academic studies should be highlighted and celebrated.

As we celebrate the six or ten 6-10 individuals who have excelled in their final exams, we also have to remember the ones got lower grades, the people whose stories are never told. We also need to remember that traffickers mark this number and look for the vulnerable. We have heard from our partners that recruiters will go through the test score lists and target the ones with the lowest grades with questionable job offers, which may in fact be human trafficking in disguise.

## Pictures from training at Kenya Conference of Catholic Bishops



# Update on Arts to End Slavery

By Bethan Uitterdijk

## Concept Meetings for Artists

Behind the scenes is an exciting place for Arts to End Slavery. Although the A2ES exhibitions aren't to be held for a few months (they will be in May 2015), there is much going on at the moment in their eager preparation. It's only fair to explain how A2ES is continuing to grow and mature in preparation for May. One particular rite of passage for our artists has been to have a concept meeting with the project coordinator. The meeting has focused on explaining the issue of human trafficking. These meetings strive to explain to the artist the different forms of trafficking (for labor, for organs and for sexual exploitation) and seek to educate the artists on the nature of human trafficking in Kenya.

I am an intern for HAART and although I've been passionate about anti-trafficking for some years now, avidly researching the issue wherever I could, this internship has been opening my eyes even more to the true nature of trafficking. For instance, most people are familiar with sex trafficking in South East Asia because of the media highlighting stories. However, the nature of trafficking in Kenya is very different. We have sex trafficking occurring at the coast but most of the cases that HAART has handled mainly involved trafficking for labor. I've learned that trafficking isn't defined solely by moving someone from A to B; you can hold someone against his or her will in the same location and this too is trafficking. The industry trades both men and women; both boys and girls.

There are three characteristics classic to this complex business that we want our artists to describe: transit, exploitation and recruitment. To fully depict human trafficking, one needs to communicate its many facets: deception/trickery, abuse of trust, confiscation of official papers and documents, bondage to an agreement and/or consequential burdens of debt to the trafficker. The artists have all had concept meetings because it is important to HAART that each work of art is able to educate honestly and accurately about the trafficking of humans. Not only is this an opportunity for the artists to better understand the industry of modern-day slavery, but the ultimate hope is for the viewers at the A2ES exhibition to be confronted with accurate, well informed and balanced representations of the different forms of human trafficking. The concept meetings also allow the artist to choose the form of trafficking that they want to depict in their art piece. The idea is that we do not want a scenario where all the artists end up doing pieces on the same issue. We want all the aspects of human trafficking covered and these concept meetings will ensure that this happens.

## Exhibition hunting

In these past few weeks Arts to End Slavery (A2ES) has begun the process of finding exhibition space. In May 2015 three exhibitions will be held in Nairobi to publicize the expressions of art that are being created for HAART. Although this exhibition has been dreamt of, discussed and progressively planned since last year, it is now time to choose the perfect location to show off these works of art. After all, the art is being prepared not to be enjoyed by an audience of one, but to be shown off to the masses, to evoke responses amongst many and to provoke a diverse collection of reactions and emotions.

Mwende, the project coordinator, Sophie, the project consultant and two of HAART's interns (that's where I come in) visited four potential locations to host the A2ES exhibition. It is exciting to see the exhibition begin to take form and to see Mwende's thoughts/research/planning/communication come to fruition as we're better able to picture what this event will look like come May. The rooms we visited were all within Nairobi's city-center and generally differed from one to the other. Some spaces classically used as conference rooms, some as performance centers and some exclusively for exhibitions. Naturally, they too differed in size, grandeur and lighting. One room was covered from head to toe in soundproofing, which is not overly ideal when you hope to hang paintings! As well as the details of the room being highly important to A2ES, the location and accessibility of the gallery is also vital – we want it to realistically reachable.

One particular site that equally impressed us all was the Michael Joseph Centre in Westlands. A huge window and spotlights lit the spacious room. When we visited it initially, it looked like a space that was ideal for performing arts and not exhibitions. The management team at the center encouraged us to visit the following week when there was an exhibition to get a better view of what our exhibition would look like. A strategic second visit meant that we were able to see the space being used as an art gallery for two Kenyan artists. Walking amongst the art pieces caused us to better visualize our own A2ES exhibition and confirmed that this location would truly celebrate our collection of art. We were able to picture a location that could facilitate each art piece, giving opportunity for every viewer to observe, to contemplate and to be provoked by the message of human trafficking that each piece communicates.

This being HAART's first year of A2ES, we hope to start as we mean to go on and create an event that will flourish annually to create awareness about human trafficking. I heartily recommend that you pencil A2ES into May in your diaries!



Awareness Against Human Trafficking

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WE ARE ON THE WEB!!!

PLEASE VISIT US AT:

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

Follow US ON SOCIAL MEDIA

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

## Upcoming events

- 12 workshops at the grass root level organized by our volunteers
- Assistance to victims' of human trafficking (VOTs)
- Anti-trafficking campaign in social media
- Final preparations for 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.

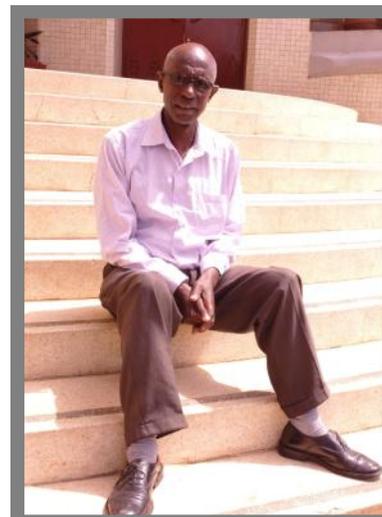
[HAARTKENYA.ORG/DONATE](http://HAARTKENYA.ORG/DONATE)

## Volunteers of the month



**Volunteer**

Asha Adam



**Volunteer**

Dennis Nyaga