

Azadi Kenya September 2023 Newsletter



Hello Friends

Every quarter, we send out these newsletters to give you feedback and news about our work with women of lived the experience of modern slavery and human trafficking. We work closely with our community members to bring you field reports and details of noteworthy initiatives. We dearly invite you to our exciting events, success stories, and upcoming initiatives ahead. Become part of our cause by donating today to support women who have lived through human trafficking.

A lot has happened since we last spoke. Importantly, we had our third ethical storytelling project on our 2nd anniversary on 30th July. Ethical storytelling was our maiden project and something very close to our core ever since. This newsletter will be dedicated to this project so please read on to learn more.

Azadi conducted the first ethical storytelling (EST) project in 2021 during the COVID-19 lockdown period. The project was prompted by a realization that the experiences of people with lived experience of modern slavery are misrepresented and absent in narratives and policy processes due to lack of inclusion, power dynamics, and lack of trained people with lived experience experts.

Experts virtually trained 14 women who have been through human trafficking in photography, storytelling, and research to change that unequal and exclusive storytelling structure.

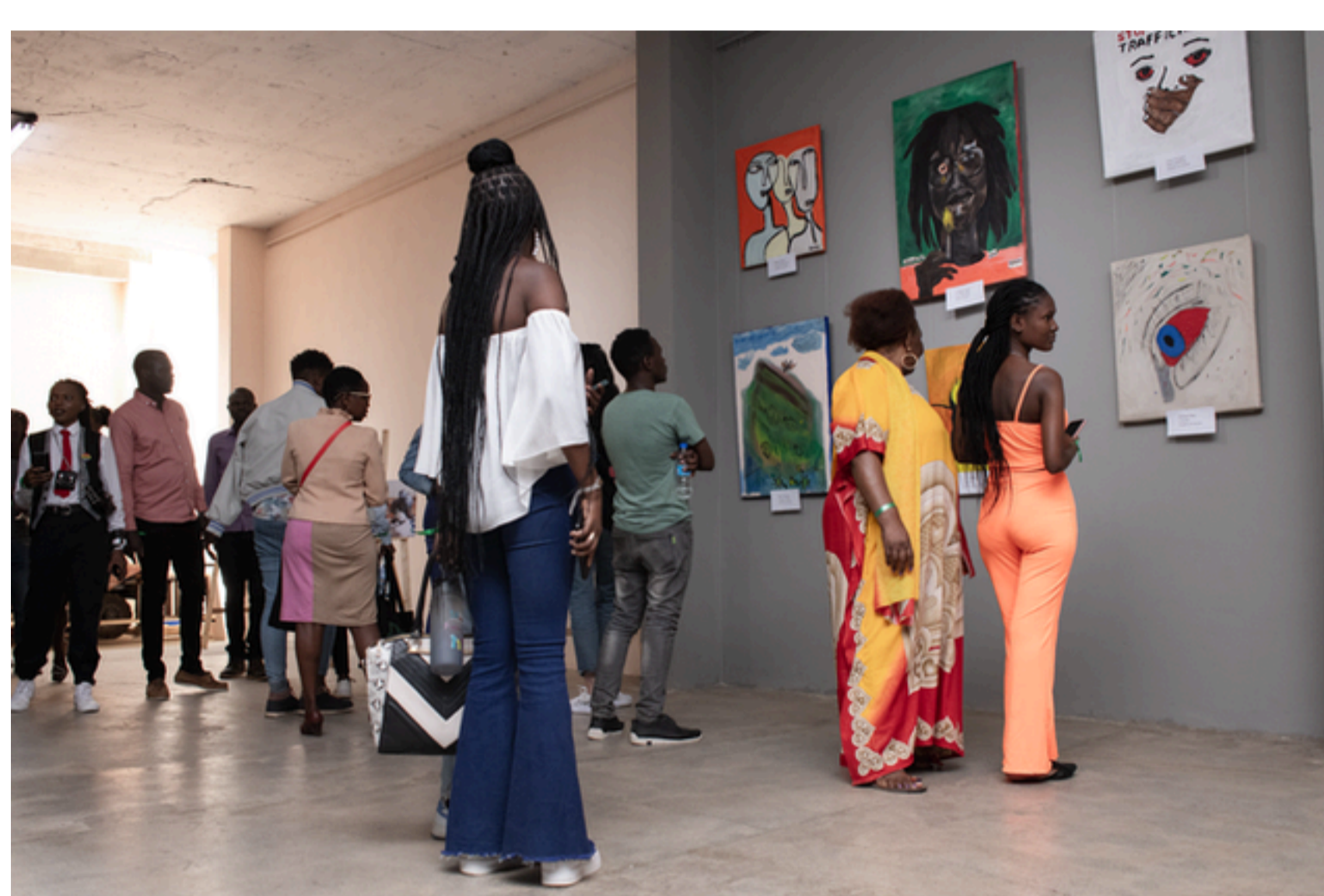
Since inception, ethical storytelling projects have proved that people with lived experience can be subjects, authors, and critics of their own stories. This has been particularly evident after the series of successful physical and virtual exhibitions held on the 30th of July 2021 and the 30th of July 2022 as a result of the ethical storytelling project conducted in the following years.

This year between April and July, we engaged selected leaders from the Azadi community and international fellows. The trained fellows were supported by experts including a photographer, a writer, an art therapist, a curator, and a digital archivist to co-create small projects that will go into a digital archive together with the work produced in 2021 and 2022.

Additionally, the training encouraged the fellows to freely express their experiences and stories through photos, written narratives, zines, and art. Together they co-created content that was exhibited virtually on the Azadi website and physically in an exhibition at Ardhi Gallery in Nairobi, on 30th July during World Day Against Trafficking in Persons.

The exhibition was a platform to create awareness to the wider public and inform interventions and changes in the anti-trafficking movement to be more trauma-informed and lived experience-centered. This year our community, partners, civil society organizations, and government allies joined us when we exhibited at Ardhi Gallery.

You can learn more from our last two online exhibitions by clicking the buttons below



EXHIBITION 2023

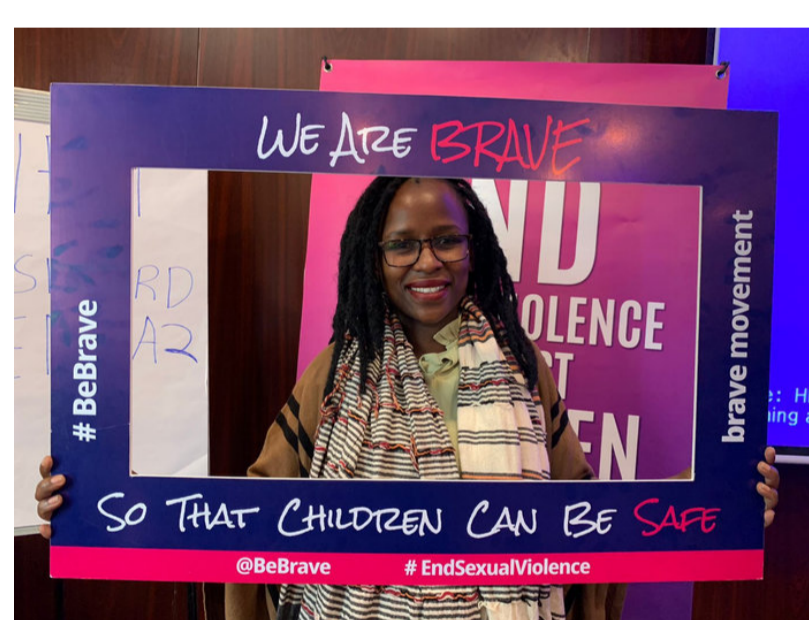
EXHIBITION 2022

Partnerships a love letter

We understand that we can't do this work by ourselves, We need to partner with other like-minded organizations in order to achieve our mission. We had our partner Maisha Girls Safe House invite us to a workshop that focused on the protection of children and ending sexual violence. We have been partnering with Maisha to educate and support girls who have survived Gender Based Violence so they can thrive and return to their normal lives.

Our community from Malindi also partnered with the County Government of Kilifi and other CSOs in commemoration of the International Youth Day. This year's theme was Green Skills Towards Youths: towards a Sustainable World. A sustainable world for those who are trying to foster back their lives after surviving trafficking is very important.

Shout out to the National Survivor Network for offering professional development training for Azadi members in preparation for becoming organizational "coaches" (or "technical assistance consultants") for anti-trafficking programs who hope to implement the practices and evaluation outlined in the Meaningful Engagement of People With Lived Experience Toolkit released by the National Survivor Network and the Global Fund to End Modern Slavery. You can find the link to the toolkit [A Funders Toolkit for Lived Experience Inclusion in Modern Slavery Research \(v1.0\)](#).



Storytime from our community

Title: My Heartbeat

Ooh yes, I've always wanted to give up many times, but again I'm still standing here,
I am still fighting my silent battles for better days ahead.
And though my legs may tremble and my soul gets tired,
I keep trudging forward through the fire and muddy seasons,
Until I find my inner peace to rest, within a heart that is resilient to be nothing less than a beautiful heart.

Poem by Ruth Matunda-2023 Ethical Storytelling Fellow

We just want to thank you for your continued support in different ways. We don't take it for granted. One of our proudest moments has been to establish a safe space to support these beautiful women with lived experiences of human trafficking. Despite established structures and programs we still look forward to your support to make the safe space more inclusive and better at meeting the needs of the community we serve. Support us in supporting these amazing women with the little you have. We are asking for donations whether it be through monetary donations or in-kind.

For any collections, you can use the button below or call +254 712682682

Support Us



For now, thank you for reading our newsletter. We'll speak to you all again soon.
Thank you for your support.

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