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Azadi Kenya February 2022 Newsletter





Hello our dear friends,

It has been slightly more than six months since we officially launched Azadi, and girl, have we been busy thinking, creating, and developing in this time. Our little organisation is now growing and growing and we are beyond thrilled to see what 2022 has in store for us.

On the sixth month anniversary of launching, the team and quite a few of our members met in the resource centre for a soft launch. It will be a slow start for now and we hope to slowly become fully functional. The idea of the space is for it to be a survivor-centered space, where safety is prioritised, people find community, and get the support that Azadi offers. You can read more about what we envision for the space and how you can support us in getting it to where it needs to go here: <https://www.azadikenya.org/post/resource-centre>.

The resource centre is our biggest milestone, but recognise that even the smaller victories put Azadi where we're headed. For example, we did a lot of ethical storytelling work which has led to us refining our model for this kind of work and given us experience to make this one of our areas of expertise. Our ethical storytelling work started with our initial project with Nottingham University where our survivor leaders were trained in ethical storytelling tools, e.g. writing and photography which culminated in a series of pictures and

One of the survivors from that project ultimately became a consultant on a different ethical storytelling project we did with Nottingham University and City Hearts, where a UK-based survivor cohort were trained in similar skills. We are major advocates for survivors getting to tell stories as they want them told, which is why this project is so near and dear to us.

We also got the privilege to work with a number of individuals and organisations who inspired us and taught us valuable lessons. It has culminated in fantastic projects, new ideas, visions for the future, new friends, and even more support to our group of survivors. We are especially fond of all our early donors who believed enough in our vision and ideas to fund our efforts. We are beyond grateful for the trust they laid upon us and how they have continued to support us throughout our short journey so far.

The work that we do together with survivor leaders is what inspires us the most and what we consider the most impactful. Creating a space where survivor leaders call the shots, make plans, set the stage, and work together to create a common vision is the reason for the existence of Azadi. We celebrate and recognise these amazing women who always bring their heart, character, expertise, and insight into everything we are doing. They have truly made sure that we uphold our values at every step of the way. Lastly, we are incredibly proud of the

stories which were exhibited on the World Day Against Trafficking in Persons and the official Azadi launch in July 2021.

team that we have been able to put together at Azadi. We recently increased the size of our team and we are so excited to see how it will make our organisation grow.

News

& Upcoming projects

Very exciting things are coming up, friends! What we will be doing with the resource centre might just be the most exciting. We're looking into what we can do first to create a safe, comfortable, and inspirational space for our survivor leaders, and we're super excited about the possibilities.

We also have a host of other ethical storytelling projects in the making. The exhibition that our members made for our July launch is going into an exhibition in Liverpool later this year. We will also be doing another art-based project with Nottingham University and an ethical storytelling project with Photographers Without Borders.

We're also looking into doing a ton of research this year, which will bring about incredible opportunities to share knowledge and for survivors to actively participate in the library of trafficking-related information that exists out there. We're starting several of those projects within this year and we're very excited to share them with all of you.

Lastly, 2022 has already had its fair share of wonderful opportunities open itself up from the ones just mentioned and many more like this. We are in the process of communicating partnerships with multiple organisations and individuals, all of which will bring incredible projects and learning opportunities for us at Azadi. A partnership we're looking forward to is with Valkyrie, which will commence very soon.

This year will be a year of growth, prosperity, and relationship-building for us at Azadi and we can't wait! We truly hope that all you, our friends, will be here to witness it with us. We'll be sure to keep you all updated.

For now, goodbye and thank you for your support.



Storytime

Six Month Review

By Sophie Otiende

Hallo friends

It's been six months since Azadi officially launched. Six months of joy, building community, learning and unlearning and also six months of unwavering support from our friends. Anyone who knows me, knows that Azadi came as a result of years of work in the human trafficking space and a genuine demand from the survivor leaders in Kenya for a different model that focused on long term support for survivors and above all was survivor led.

Our primary goals these past few months have been building processes and systems, learning how to model our values and blending together as a community. We are learning that to come together and have harmony requires that we unlearn some of the things we have been socialised to do. Working together requires that we are intentional about care, that we prioritise and create room for learning about each other. The question of how this looks in a workplace is something we are learning and documenting.

We have seen a lot of support from people who believe in the idea that is Azadi. The support has been quite overwhelming and we hope that as we officially start implementing our projects that are funded by donors that will help us remain true to the vision and values that we hold. Our motivation firmly remains building solidarity with survivors of trafficking and helping each one we meet to figure out what that looks like.

Finally, as someone who has gone through trauma, grief is a very familiar feeling. The feelings of loss, sadness and lack of control. This is the feeling that most of us have been battling through this pandemic that seems to have no end. My hope is that grief doesn't become familiar because when it does, experiencing joy becomes difficult and we have to learn to accept joy which is not easy.

As we go through this difficult time in our lives, may you find reasons to smile, to love and to extend care just a little bit for those around you.

Thanks again and stay in touch with us!

If you would like to support us, please find information about how to do that using the button below.

You can of course reach out to us with anything at all on

info@azadikenya.org and we'll be sure to get back to you.

Support Us



Please click on the button below if you want to participate in our survey about human trafficking. It is completely anonymous.


Survey

For now, goodbye and thank you for your support.

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