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# Azadi Kenya May 2022 Newsletter





Hello our dear friends,

We are excited to share some updates with all of you. A lot has happened since you last spoke with us, so get comfortable as we take you through it all.

It has been just over a year since Azadi officially kickstarted our first ethical storytelling project. A lot has happened since with our little organisation that is fast outgrowing its little-ness. We have a resource centre that is running and where regular engagements happen, including regular training, sessions, and other fun activities. Read on to find an account of the progress for the centre from our very own Claire, who has facilitated that set-up.

We have been working with partners on incredibly exciting projects, including research, ethical storytelling, and capacity development. Working with external partners from all over the world on these projects has been a beautiful experience.

We have been able to provide employment opportunities to quite a number of survivor leaders through these very projects.

Supporting survivor leaders to thrive is truly the lifeblood of Azadi Kenya, which makes this a very special accomplishment for us. Now, as we're working with partners, it has become a prerequisite that we take on survivor leaders to support for that project.

Employment opportunities are being born, friends, and the projects are undoubtedly better off with these beautiful peoples' skills and experience.

Lastly, we conducted a week-long training in March as part of our partnership with Valkyrie Gives, where our team was able to conduct training on topics such as administration, case management, finance, data management, safeguarding, and the ins and outs of human trafficking to two organisations we're working with. Most of our team had never done training before and we're super proud of everyone who supported in the facilitation of that training session.

Those are our updates for this time, continue to read more about our upcoming work.

News

## & Upcoming projects

A major event coming up is Azadi's ability to conduct capacity development for organisations, specifically in regard to case management. We are working with Valkyrie Gives and Willow International to facilitate this training so that we can do our part in supporting other organisations to give the highest quality of care to survivors around East Africa. We're excited to see the beautiful partnerships blossom as well as see how our knowledge and expertise will be integrated into other organisations' practices.

We are currently working on finalising another ethical storytelling project that will be a beautiful combination of different storytelling tools. It will culminate in an exhibition on World Day Against Trafficking in Persons in July. This will be a special moment for us and we can't wait to share it with all of you.

This year will be a major year for knowledge production and sharing at Azadi. We are currently working on a research project with the University of Liverpool, we recently contributed to a research project by Migrant Rights, and there are more interesting opportunities brewing, yet to come.

The remaining year will be a thrilling one, we're sure. With the projects already planned and underway with many more hopefully to come. It will be a year of growth, learning, and getting our feet settled firmly on the ground. We're still new and we're working hard on trying to do our work better, more inclusively, and with a stronger output, and we're hopeful that this year will clear the groundwork and pave the way for a beautiful future for Azadi.

We truly hope that all you, our friends, will follow along with our efforts to grow, learn, and thrive as an organisation and as people. We'll be sure to keep you all updated.



**Storytime**  
*Resource Centre Status*

## By Claire Olendo

Hello friends,

The resource centre is yet to be 100% operational but let's take a minute and appreciate the journey thus far. It has been filled with excitement, learning, unlearning and of firsts that ultimately have led to positive growth.

We can't appreciate enough the support and collaboration we are privileged to have in our space.

The path for setting up the centre has been an educational one. I have come to understand and appreciate the importance of inclusion, having a community, and a space where you feel safe.

The doors to the centre continue to remain open as we work towards creating spaces and programmes that enhance agency and support the recovery and reintegration of survivors of human trafficking back into society.

The month of May being Mental Awareness Month we have focused heavily on making sure that we support everyone's mental health and wellbeing journeys. Our Mental health and Wellbeing programme kickstarted with biweekly group therapy sessions facilitated by our in-house trained psychologist, Michelle. A group of survivors come for the therapy sessions where they also get to interact and connect over a meal.

The survivors have also been accessing the space to conduct meetings, interviews, research, and work on the different projects and mentorship programmes they are a

Now, we have the centre equipped with fire and safety measures, such as smoke detectors, fire extinguishers, and fire and safety signs. We also have fire and safety plans, we conducted a fire drill, and everyone in attendance received basic fire and safety training.'

We have also experienced some challenges along the way but we choose to see the challenges as very important lessons. With the programmes intertwining, it means that some programmes and services have to run concurrently. We have come to acknowledge first-hand the dire need of creche services for mothers. We have witnessed how being a mother and having to ensure the wellbeing and safety of a child leaves most mothers with limited choices. We have witnessed this to mean that the parental responsibilities leave the mother no choice than to pause or disengage from programmes and activities.

With Azadi creche services, our idea is to create a conducive and baby-friendly environment. It will have a childcare worker who will support the mothers and their babies. Our hope is with the existence of a creche in the resource centre, the mothers will be able to fully engage, participate and pursue their goals both personally and professionally.

Friends, the resource centre is still in its infancy but we have high hopes for its continued development to be a space for survivor leaders to come be a part of a tight-knit community, learn, and thrive.

part of.

As one of the ways of ensuring safety for the physical space and the people accessing it, we have been working with two interns studying risk management, who helped us achieve our safety plan. It is incredibly important for us that the centre is a place where everyone feels safe and well.

We are grateful for the milestones and the continued support. for the Azadi Resource Centre to get 100% operational.

For now, goodbye and thank you for your support.

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](mailto:info@azadikenya.org) and we'll be sure to get back to you.

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For now, goodbye and thank you for your support.

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