



Association for Women's Sanctuary and Development
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*Amharic for 'listen to me'

July - September 2018

Message from the Directress



Quarterly Newsletter, July – September 2018 edition of Simugn

As we are currently in the first quarter of the Ethiopian New Year and in the third quarter of 2018.

This report is to provide our supporters and readers with a brief introduction as to the organization's activities for the quarter.

We are delighted to report the successful launch of Dessie, which is the AWSAD's 5th safe house in the Amhara Region.

We also provide exciting news that two of AWSAD's residents have successfully graduated from University with our support.

During the quarter AWSAD held a Learning event with the police, women's affairs and other NGO's which have contributed to AWSAD's cause over the past 3 years. The purpose of the event was for everyone involved to share their experiences with each other and to provide feedback to ensure all members learn from each other so the organization can continue to grow. A success story and more of our news for the quarter have been included below.

Feel free to share the newsletter with friends, your community and colleagues. Please do let us know what you think and contribute your feedback.

With warm greetings from all of us at the Association for Women's Sanctuary and Development (AWSAD), thank you for your time.

Kind Regards,
Maria Munir
Executive Directress

Launching of a New Safe House

AWSAD opened a new safe house in Dessie city on 15th September. This makes the 5th AWSAD safe house location. Like the other AWSAD safe houses, the Dessie safe house provides comprehensive rehabilitation and reintegration services. This includes psychological counseling, skills training, legal follow-up and reintegration. The Dessie safe house was set up with financial support from UNFPA.

This exciting launching ceremony was attended by different officials including the UNFPA representative, UN Women representative, Deputy Mayor of Dessie, AWSAD Stakeholders, Board members, AWSAD staff, Safe house residents, Ex-residents and invited guests.



AWSAD's University Graduates

AWSAD has educational programs that support safe house residents who couldn't finish school or had to drop out because of the violence they faced. These programs help the students continue their education from primary school through to the university level. Residents with no formal educational background are offered basic literacy courses in the safe house.

This year, two longtime residents of AWSAD recently graduated from university. Asnakech, who joined the shelter six years ago, graduated from Wolkite University with a Bachelor of Science in Engineering. Tewabech was in secondary school when she first came to AWSAD. She is now a graduate from St. Paul Hospital Millennium Medical College, Addis Ababa and has received her doctorate degree of Science in the field of Medicine.



During their 5 and 7 years of stay in university, they continued to receive support from AWSAD in the form of supplies, a monthly stipend and accommodation during the two-month break at the end of each academic year. During these two months, Asnakech and Tewabech volunteered at AWSAD. Since graduating, Tewabech is now practicing as a medical doctor. Although Asnakech earned her degree in Engineering, she decided to work with AWSAD as a branch

coordinator at one of our safe houses. Before she begins to work in her field, she wants to dedicate her time and help change the lives of survivors as hers was changed. Some AWSAD staff members traveled to the universities for the graduations and held a celebration party for them at AWSAD back in Addis Ababa on Ethiopian New Year (September 11). This made the event even more special. All safe house residents and AWSAD staff, including AWSAD directress Maria Munir, attended the ceremony. These events were very inspiring as these brave graduates' success motivates the women and girls at the safe houses.

AWSAD Learning Event

With the support of Comic Relief through Womankind, AWSAD organized an event on 9th September 2018 to share the information gained while working on the 3-year (2016-2018) Comic Relief funded project: "**Ending Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) in Ethiopia: Strengthening Services and Responses for Women and Girls in Addis Ababa**". Attendees varied from Women Affairs, Community Leaders and Facilitators, Police and Public Prosecutors, Private & Government Organizations and representatives of NGO. The platform created an opportunity for AWSAD, its partners and stakeholders everyone involved, to share their experiences with each other and to provide feedback to ensure all members learn from one another so the organization can continue to grow.

Some of the highlighted points from the learning event are:

- A strong and effective partnership with the police commission and the Attorney General and to recognize and respond to wider system changes.
- Bringing police and prosecutors together for training to reduce the secondary victimization of survivors.

For those interested in reading more about our learning event, we will send the full report to your inbox once it's completed.



IGA News

Five ex-residents took an entrance exam and were hired at a company called ESALK Garment on 24 September 2018. Those five beneficiaries are happy that they got the job and are especially thrilled that Selam Children Village generously offered a free daycare service. Now their children are in a safe place and get nutrition while the mothers are working.



Visitors of Addis Ababa Safe House

On July 19, British Ambassador Susanna Moorehead and representatives from CAFOD, SCIAF, and Trócaire (CST Together) visited the Addis Ababa safe house and the survivors.

On July 20, Founder and Executive Director of CAWE Mrs. Nigist Haile and her coworkers visited the safe house and the survivors. They brought a contribution of materials to the safe house residents.

On September 7, Police officer and his Excellence Deputy Commissioner Hassen Negash visited the safe house and the survivors.

The survivors welcomed all visitors by presenting different traditional dances. All visitors pointed out that they were happy by the services delivered and by the welcoming ceremony. *"You are all amazing, thank you for your hospitality and the beautiful dances. We would also like to appreciate the staff's effort"* the visitors said.



Ambassador Susanna with the residents



CST Together Representatives sharing their stories



*Founder and Executive Director of CAWE
Mrs. Nigist Haile and her coworkers*



Deputy Commissioner Hassen Negash

Staff Stress and Burnout Management Training

Staff stress and Burnout Management was held at the headquarters on August 16-17, 2018. Both safe house and head office staff participated in the training. The training covered methods to detect stress and burnout, the factors that trigger it and the techniques to manage stress on both an organizational and personal level. From the training provided, the staff learned that work stress and complex working patterns can cause serious damage to physical and mental health if not managed in time. The training presented several ways for the staff to take care of themselves in times of stress and disruption.



AWSAD's Other Contributions

Citizens have lost their precious lives due to the conflicts in Addis Ababa. AWSAD expresses its heartfelt condolences to all Ethiopians!

In this spirit, AWSAD is supporting the displaced citizens by letting them into its safe house in Addis Ababa. Over 50 women and children were provided basic needs like shelter, food, and medical and psychological counseling in this quarter.



Survivors supported by AWSAD in this Quarter

There are currently 247 women survivors and 73 of their children in AWSAD's 4 safe houses:

- Addis Ababa: 116 women and 19 children (of survivors)
- Adama: 41 women and 17 children (of survivors)
- Oromiya: 47 women and 17 children (of survivors)
- Hawassa: 43 women and 20 children (of survivors)

All survivors benefit from services provided in the safe house, including medication, counseling, physical fitness, art and dance therapy, basic literacy and skills training.

AWSAD Safe house



Addis Ababa Safe house



Adama Safe house



Oromia Safe house



Hawassa Safe house

Success Story

My name is Hasiya Abubeker. I am 16 years old. I was born in Afar region. I have 1 sister and 5 brothers. My father died when I was little. My family is sugar cane farm guards. I attended primary education until 5th grade. But when my mother got sick I quit school. I was introduced to a man and we used to be close. But when he nagged me to have sex with him I refused several times. One day he took me a place called Yerer and raped me. After a while I was not feeling good and my friend took me to the hospital and the test showed that I was pregnant. I told him everything but he was not happy. He gave me money to get rid of the baby. But I was afraid to get an abortion and when I told him he said he will marry me if I wanted. Then I dropped the idea of abortion.

My mother was suspicious of my condition. I was afraid she might know so I ran away from home and came to Adama to see my aunt who lives in Adama in a place called Genda Gara then I took a taxi and paid 50birr but the driver took me to another place and asked me if I was

running away from home and I told him I was not. Then he started to beat me and remove my under cloth and tried to rape me. I told him I am pregnant but he said he noticed that. Then when he pushed and forced I told him I have HIV virus to let me go but I lied. He stopped to force me and said he wanted to have sex with me by using condom. When I started shouting people came to the taxi. I told them he is trying to rape me then they took us to the police station and they arrested him and they brought me here to the safe house. In the safe house, I was provided with meals, food, health service, individual and group counseling, different empowerment sessions, sewing training, basic literacy trainings and many helpful things that grew hope in me. I am now a self-confident and sociable person and I gave birth to my baby safely. My legal case is finalized and the perpetrator has been sentenced to 3 years of imprisonment. I am very grateful for what AWSAD has done for me!

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The Association for Women's Sanctuary and Development (AWSAD) is a resident civil society organization that provides holistic rehabilitation and reintegration services for women and girl survivors of violence such as rape and domestic violence. AWSAD provides its clients with a transitional, women's-only shelter, psychological counseling, legal aid and other services to help clients recuperate from their trauma and be reintegrated into society. AWSAD offers various skills training to its residents and supports their initiatives to be economically self-reliant.

For their generous support, AWSAD thanks its many donors including:



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