



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

**October - December 2018**

### Message from the Directress



#### **Quarterly Newsletter, October– December 2018 edition of Simugn.**

Dear friends of AWSAD, it is my pleasure to update you on all that has been happening at AWSAD in 2018's last quarter.

We are delighted to report that During the 16 Days of Activism against Gender Based Violence Campaign, Ethiopia's First Female President came to visit our safe house also different celebrations including White Ribbon Day and Human Rights Day was held.

All survivors who were taking skill training completed the training and graduated. They took COC exams and got a job opportunity.

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

[www.awsad.org](http://www.awsad.org)

## Ethiopia's First Female President Visits AWSAD

HE President Sahle-Work Zewde accompanied by Women and Children Affairs Minister HE Yealem Tsegaye and HE Hiwot Hailu visited AWSAD's Addis Ababa branch Safe House on 5, December 2018.

Women and girls survivors in the safe house and staffs were honored to welcome the first woman President of Ethiopia.

During the visit she met with the survivors and held discussion with the young girls: one of the girl said that she will be a President and another girl said she will be a Prime Minister in the future. The President encouraged them saying that they can do anything and reach where ever they want.

The president thanked and appreciated the Association for its honorable deeds after witnessing and listening to the stories of the residents. "There is no excuse and justification for women and girls to face violence" said the President.

It was a great day for residents and AWSAD staff. We had songs, dance and a wonderful poem by the survivors in the Safe House. We look forward to working with these powerful and inspiring women to help build a better tomorrow for women and girls.



## Canada Minister Visits Hawassa Safe House

H.E Minister of International Development Canada, Marie-Claude Bibeau and Antoine Chevrier Ambassador-designate to Ethiopia and Djibouti, visited AWSAD safe house in Hawassa City on 15<sup>th</sup> of November 2018.

Minister Marie-Claude Bibeau in her address said that “Canada will continue to help women and children survivors of violence to rebuild their lives by providing a safe-space to recover, psychological, medical and legal services and skills-training.”

The residents of the safe house shared their personal testimonies and success stories with H.E Marie-Claude Bibeau.



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## 'Jegnit' (Female Hero) Award

The 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence campaign was celebrated with a theme of "Jegnit (female hero) prevents Gender-Based Violence by educating her children."

On 10, December 2018 (Human Rights Day) the Dagmawi Minilik Memorial Hospital one stop center was launched. The Deputy Minister of Women, Children and Youth HE Simegn Wube on her opening remark stated that: “the prevention and struggle to end violence against women is not only a 16 day campaign or a one day event, it marks an important period with in the women empowerment movement where we give due recognition to survivors of this violence and provide them with the necessary support to enhance their rehabilitation.”

The Ministry awarded Association for Women’s Sanctuary and Development (AWSAD) and other institutions and rehabilitation centers for their contribution to fight Gender Based Violence (GBV).

At the forum ex-residents of AWSAD safe house shared their success story which was streamed on National TVs.



## Human Rights Day Celebration

16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence event under the theme "Let us End Sexual and Gender-Based Violence Standing in Solidarity with Survivors" was held at the Association for Women's Sanctuary and Development (AWSAD) safe house on 10, December (human rights day)2018. Staffs of UNFPA, Embassy of Canada, survivors of Gender-Based Violence residing in the safe house as well as staffs of AWSAD attended the event.



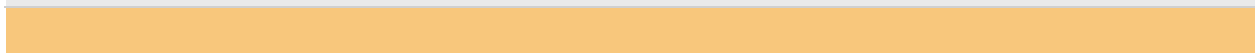


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## White Ribbon Day Celebration

During the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence Campaign more than 200 Police officers celebrated White Ribbon Day at the Addis Ababa safe house on 7, December 2018 believing that there is no better place to celebrate the day. Representatives from all Addis Ababa sub city visited the safe house. They donated in cash and in kind to support the safe house.

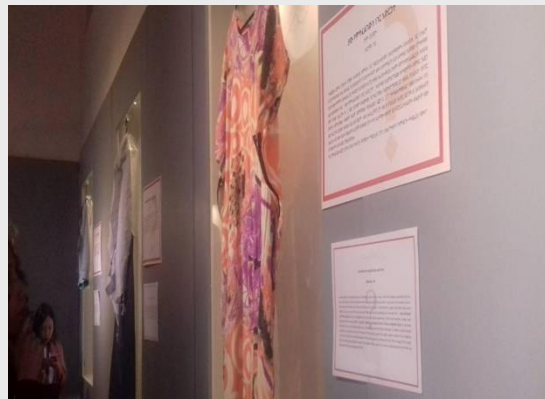
Poems and traditional dance were performed by the Art and Dance Therapy group and the participants joined the group. Seeing the police by their side, the residents felt confident.



## "What She Wore" Exhibition

"What She Wore", an exhibition organized by Setaweet which is a feminist movement based in Ethiopia, in collaboration with the Embassy of Sweden and UN Women at the Addis Ababa archive Museum (Wemezeker) that exhibited the clothes worn by raped survivors in the country.

The exhibition was held as part of the 16 days of activism on Gender Based Violence. The exhibits displayed were clothes of 15 women (14 of which were provided by AWSAD) between the ages 7 and 20 and the outfits they had on when they were raped at various times. The program was made available to the public and remained from November 25 – December 10. The opening ceremony was preceded by a panel discussion on Gender-Based Violence that showed the social, psychological and legal problems involved in rape cases. During the panel discussion, the social ostracism and persecution survivors face including victim blaming, which is the act of attributing the violence to what the woman was wearing and other practices that continue to harm survivors were raised. Issues on the gap in the criminal justice system were also discussed.



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## World's AIDS Day Celebration

The 30th World AIDS Day, organized by UNAIDS in collaboration with UNFPA, was celebrated at the United Nations Conference Center in Addis Ababa (UNCC-AA) from November 30 - Dec 5, 2018

At the event hand-made and embroidery products prepared by the survivors residing in AWSAD safe house were exhibited at the concourse. AWSAD prepared a Red Ribbon to highlight the day.



*60 meters-long red ribbon, prepared by AWSAD*



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## **Visitors of the Safe House**

More than 40 visitors from Ethiopian aid UK, Ireland, Canada and Australia visited the Addis Ababa safe house in November 2018. All of them have been big supporters of AWSAD safe house.

During their visit various hand-made embroideries made by the survivors of the safe house were exhibited. Short stories of the survivors who made the embroideries were attached on them to better enlighten the representatives on the backgrounds of the survivors.

The visiting delegation went on to express their appreciation towards the efforts made by the AWSAD team by saying "Thank you for everything you do, for everyone you inspired, for every life you bless: you are strong, you are brave and incredible. We will keep working towards this amazing work." The visitors were delighted to have visited the safe house.



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## **International Domestic Violence and Health (IDVH) Conference, Australia**

The Centre of Research Excellence to promote Safer Families (Safer Families CRE) is the first dedicated Centre to lead research into Intimate Partner Violence. It aims to make families safer by generating evidence-informed knowledge to assist early intervention and first line responses to family violence.

The IDVH Conference that headlined early intervention for domestic violence in health settings was organized and hosted by Safer Families in Australia, Melbourne from 20-21 November 2018. The conference themes included: Early intervention in the health sector, first line responses to domestic violence, longitudinal studies and voices of survivors to tailor responses for women and children from all background, develop and evaluate effective responses to family violence.

AWSAD's Executive Directress Maria Munir joined the two days international conference which



consisted of 400 delegates from all over the world comprising practitioners, survivors, careers, researchers, students, policy makers, community leaders, managers and advocates conference. Mrs. Maria Munir had been provided a forum to introduce and present all about AWSAD's organizational profile. During the story telling program she talked about her story about the safe house and she proudly talked about the First Women President of Ethiopia and the 50/50 women at Ministerial level which was appreciated by conference participants and invited guests.



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## Income Generating Activity (IGA) News

On 15, December 2018 seven safe house residents completed House-keeping and babysitting training that was conducted for three months. The graduation ceremony was held at the Addis Ababa City Administration. Fortunately, after graduation all the graduates secured a job opportunity at different Institutions in Addis Ababa. One of the graduates expressed her gratitude for the opportunity by stating: "I am very happy that I graduated and got a job at the same time, I have a bright future."



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After six months of sewing training, fifteen safe house residents graduated on 9, December 2018. All the trainees passed their Certificate of Compliance (CoC) exam. Out of the graduates 10 secured a job opportunity while the rest of the graduates remain in the safe house due to their pending legal cases.

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On 19, Dec 2018 safe house residents secured a job opportunity at Penda Paper Recycling Company located around their area of residence. The job opportunity, encouraging salary and convenience of the location have done a lot in easing the challenges faced by these survivors.



## Experience Sharing

AWSAD 's Program Coordinator, Addis Ababa and Hawassa Safe house Coordinators, Reintegration Officer, IGA Trainer and Safe House mother had an experience sharing visit to Nairobi from December 9 - 14, 2018. The purpose of the cross-learning visit to Talia Agler Girls Shelter (TAG): a project under the Center for Domestic Training and Development (CDTD) which rehabilitates and reintegrates trafficked and abused girls in Kenya was to share experience. The team from AWSAD also visited East African Institute of Home-care which is the training institute that provides Income Generating Activity trainings to the survivors at the shelter.

The AWSAD team shared knowledge about the organization and their experience on the ground.

Lessons learnt and points from the program are: the importance of fundraising to a better resource mobilization, ideas on how to ensure sustainability and creating strong partnerships for fast growth.



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## Survivors Supported by AWSAD in this Quarter

There are currently 259 women survivors and 70 of their children in AWSAD's 5 safe houses:

- Addis Ababa: 110 women and 11 children (of survivors)
- Adama: 44 women and 12 children (of survivors)
- Oromia: 49 women and 16 children (of survivors)
- Hawassa: 42 women and 23 children (of survivors)
- Dessie: 14 women and 8 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.

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## AWSAD Safe Houses



*Addis Ababa Safe house*



*Adama Safe house*



*Oromia Safe house*



*Hawassa Safe house*



*Dessie Safe house*



## Success Story

My name is Beza\*, when I was around two years old my mother gave me to her aunt. After two years my aunt's daughter took me to Addis Ababa, where I started working as a maid to support my family. . One day, when I was at the market, I was kidnapped by a young man disguised as a girl. I ended up in an abandoned building where I was raped by two men. Some people who were passing by the building heard me shouting and came to help. Unfortunately, the people that came to help were only able to apprehend one of the two guys, after which they took both myself and one of the perpetrators to the police station.

The police brought me to the safe house. When I first came to the safe house I was shouting, bleeding and I could not even tell my name or what had happened to me. I couldn't get the trauma out of my mind. During my stay in the safe house, I was provided with support and guidance in the form of different services. I was provided with a safe home, food, individual and group counseling services, skill training of embroidery and sewing, self-defense training and empowerment sessions. In addition, with AWSAD's support I was further provided with health services and medical support from Emmanuel (mental health) Hospital. Through strong counseling and medical follow-up, I was able to regain my health and confidence. I've also taken different training on life and basic business skills. The self-defense training that I took enabled me to defend myself against different types of violence.

I graduated from six months training of embroidery and sewing skills training. I am currently working at Kombolcha Garment Factory and I am also provided with a home for free.

When I left the safe house, I felt like I was born again. I always think of the girls who are there on the street and vulnerable to all types of violence without getting any help or assistance. In the future, once I am well established, I hope to help these girls.

*\*Names have been changed*

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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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