

# Simugn\*

\*Amharic for 'listen to me'

## AWSAD Attends International Forum of AWID in Brazil

Upon invitation from the Association of Women's Rights in Development (AWID), AWSAD attended the 13<sup>th</sup> AWID International Forum in Brazil from 8 – 11 September 2016.

This high-level international forum takes place every three or four years and this year, it brought together over 2000 women's rights leaders, donor agencies, development practitioners, grassroots leaders and activists from around the world.



Maria Munir, Executive Director of AWSAD with UN Women Executive Director Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka at the Forum

The title of this year's forum was *Femist Futures: Building Collective Power for Rights and Justice*.

AWSAD's delegates (the Executive Director and Program Coordinator of Oromia safehouse) shared their experience and learned from the Forum's different plenaries, sessions, events and self-organized spaces pertaining to AWSAD's area of work. During this event, AWSAD had the opportunity to network with other grassroots organizations from across the globe.

## Two Longtime AWSAD Residents Graduate from University

Kalkidan Getu and Bezawit Gebeyehu, longtime residents of AWSAD recently graduated from university.

Kalkidan, 23, who was only 14 when she joined the shelter, graduated from Gondar University with a Bachelor of Arts in Marketing. Beza, 23, first came to AWSAD five years ago, and attended primary and secondary education while living in the AWSAD Addis Ababa safehouse. Today

she is a graduate of Kotebe Teachers' Training Institute.

During their three-year stay in university, the young women continued to receive support from AWSAD in the form of supplies, a small stipend and accommodation during the two-month break at the end of each academic year. During these two months, Kalkidan and Beza volunteered at AWSAD to

help in the office, and assisted hospitalized residents and new mothers at the safehouse. Since graduating, Beza has been fortunate to find a job and now lives on her own, while Kalkidan is doing an apprenticeship. Some AWSAD staff travelled to the universities for the graduations and held a celebration party for them at AWSAD back in Addis Ababa.



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Beza and Kalkidan at the party at the safehouse



Kalkidan with AWSAD staff and others in Gondar

## Standardized Training Manuals Developed

AWSAD has finalized the development of standardized training manuals for its many capacity-building trainings. In its capacity building program, AWSAD trains stakeholders including police, prosecutors, community members and schools on how to prevent gender-based violence and how to support survivors.

Previously, these trainings used to be given using ad-hoc training manuals developed by the different trainers. The development of standardized training manuals now means that all trainings facilitated by AWSAD will be using generic training manuals. These manuals were developed through collabo-

ration between competent consultants such as instructors at the Police College and AWSAD staff, and have been peer-reviewed. AWSAD Oromia safehouse also plans to launch the new standard training manuals at a training of trainers it is organizing to standardize capacity building trainings given across Oromia.

## AWSAD Partners with IOM to Assist Returning Migrants

AWSAD partnered with IOM to assist the reintegration of women economic migrants returning voluntarily mostly from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. Since 2013, AWSAD has worked with IOM in its assisted voluntary return and reintegration program in which migrants who are unable or unwilling to remain in host countries and wish to return to their

countries of origin receive support. In September 2016, AWSAD's Oromia safehouse led a project to support 30 returnee migrants travelling onward to Oromia from their initial arrival in Addis Ababa along with 20 AWSAD residents who are survivors of violence in trafficking. The project provides them with skills training, reintegration grants and super-

vises their income generating activities. Previously, AWSAD has engaged in responding to the returning migrants partnering with UN Women and NPA including during the emergency post-arrival assistance at Bole International Airport to hundreds of thousands Ethiopian migrants who were deported from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in 2013.

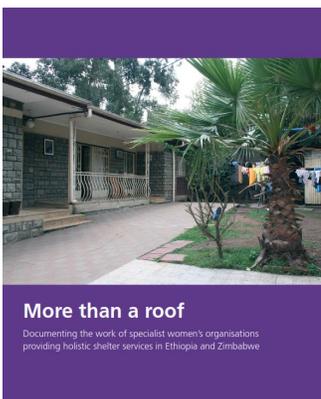
## More than a roof: a publication about AWSAD

WomanKind, one of AWSAD's prominent donors, compiled and published a comprehensive report on AWSAD's work in July 2016. The 44-page report titled *More than a roof: Documenting the work of specialist women's organizations providing holistic shelter services in Ethiopia and Zimbabwe*, also profiles a woman's shelter in Zimbabwe. The team of authors, re-

searchers and photographers spent time in Ethiopia doing desk and field documentation, speaking with AWSAD officers, stakeholders and survivors. The report documents the activities of AWSAD, its achievements and the challenges it faces. Launched at an event in Addis Ababa, the report serves as a high quality evidence on women's ser-

vices given by AWSAD. The high quality pictures taken during the writing of the report were also used to publish a photostory on *The Guardian* (a British national newspaper).

Go to this link to view the photostory: <https://www.theguardian.com/global-development/gallery/2016/jul/27/ethiopia-women-girls-safe-houses-shelter-ethiopia-female-survivors-violence-in-pictures>).



Cover of the report

## 15-Year Sentence Handed Down for Rape in Oromia, Ethiopia

**Oromia, Ethiopia:** 14-year-old Martha (not her real name), listened as the judge at Me'eso district court handed down a 15-year sentence to Legesse Getaneh. Despite feeling unfortunate that she had to go through this experience, she was happy that justice had been served at last.

It was one year ago that her stepfather raped her while her mother was away attending a funeral. "He brandished a gun

three hours away from her hometown Asebot. There she would access prenatal health services and wait out the legal case.

"When she first arrived at AWSAD, Martha was a recluse," says Hiwot Adera, the counselor who works with Martha individually and in group sessions. "She would always be crying, felt hopeless and was not sure what she was going to do with the child she carried. She was in a very low

AWSAD safehouse in Addis Ababa is supported by UNFPA, NPA, Comic Relief, WOMANKIND, Ethiopiaid UK and Ireland while AWSAD Oromia is a UN Women-supported safe house. In addition to services such as accommodation, food, health services and professional skills development, it provides much-needed legal follow up services to survivors in the safe house, which includes building survivors' courage to report cases and press charges against perpetrators, coaching survivors

to be main witnesses in their cases, following up on their court appointments and escorting survivors to and from courts, hospitals and police stations safely. AWSAD also runs capacity-building programs benefiting the community and stakeholders, including the police in the region.

As a result of the police trainings, police in the region have improved the way they handle cases of violence against women

and girls, and they have a better comprehension of the special care needed when receiving and communicating with the women who come to report cases. These trainings have also led to an increase in the amount of evidence that has been gathered and also led to a higher number of investigations being carried out. AWSAD's work at the shelter and beyond means that justice is better served.

**"He brandished a gun and threatened to kill me and my mother if I spoke out."**



AWSAD Oromia safehouse

and threatened to kill me and my mother if I spoke out," she remembers. Martha was frightened and kept this unfortunate incident a secret until her aunt and mother found out she was pregnant. When her family reported the case to the police, they were referred to the Bureau of Women and Children Affairs, which in turn referred her to the Association for Women's Sanctuary and Development (AWSAD) shelter in Adama,

place, emotionally and mentally." Through counselling and empowerment sessions at the shelter, Martha emerged from her state of depression and she has slowly begun to accept and love her child. She has also become sociable and even reaches out to newcomers to make them feel welcome. "She's very happy with the sentencing. Now she wants to return to her mother and resume her studies from grade six where she left off," says her counselor.

To receive a copy of this newsletter, send us an email at [info@awsad.org](mailto:info@awsad.org)

Association for Women's Sanctuary and Development (AWSAD) would like to thank our major donors:

- **NPA**
- **Netherlands Embassy through UNFPA**
- **Irish Aid and The Royal Danish Embassy in Ethiopia through UNWomen**
- **Womankind Worldwide**
- **Comic Relief**
- **Ethiopiaid (UK, Ireland)**

Association for Women's Sanctuary and Development (AWSAD) is an Ethiopian resident charity association established to advance women's social and economic development and provide support for women and girls fleeing physical and psychological violence. It currently operates in Addis Ababa and Oromia region, Adama town.

In its safehouses, AWSAD provides psychological support, safe shelter, food, medical services and offers basic literacy education and skill development trainings for survivors. Since 2003, AWSAD has supported over four thousand women and girls. It also runs capacity building trainings for elementary school students, Women and Children Affairs Bureau, police and other stakeholders.



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## Access to Affordable Daycares is Critical for Poor Working Mothers

By Maria Munir, Executive Director of AWSAD

In my job as head of a women's development organization, I come across two types of women. Those who are mothers and those who are not. Motherhood is one of the best joys of life, but for poor mothers, motherhood becomes both a joy and a great challenge. Having to care for children is the most common reason why mothers of young children cannot pursue a working life and be confined to a domestic life.

The number of daycare service providers is growing in cities like Addis Ababa but they are often too expensive for poor women, and so are private kindergartens. The number of government-owned preschools is highly inadequate. Poor mothers are therefore often

resolved to staying at home and caring for their children until they reach school age. Sometimes, women engage in informal employments where a mother can bring her child to work.

In 2013, we opened a free-of-charge daycare at AWSAD where residents and ex-residents can leave their children while they work. This immediately opened new doors for many women as it meant that they could engage in different economic activities, be it starting small businesses, or working in an office, and not be relegated to a non-working, dependent life.

Free or affordable daycares thus are an important social service that we need in our society.



Tigist, ex-resident, at her day job



Children at AWSAD daycare



Tigist reunites with her son after work