When Mpendulo, the Director of Umthombo, heard that visas had finally been approved by our Home Office for Hloniphile and Hombakazi to come to the On Her Terms conference, the text telling us started — “we are tears”.

As we approach Christmas the missing ‘In’ (spelt as you will) seems particularly appropriate. It sums up the lack of welcome our Home Office, and the UK as a whole, gives to those invited to come here — let alone those who desperately need refuge.

However it is the expression, ‘We are Tears’, which has stayed with me. One of my favourite promises in the Bible is from Psalm 56: ‘You store all my (our) tears in your bottle. You have recorded them all.’

I can think of no more eloquent response than to be the tears wept over so many innocent protestors killed and injured in Gaza; people gunned down because they are calling for their freedom and right to go home.

I can think of no more profound starting point to becoming involved in On Her Terms than to weep for those girls and young women who are so routinely rejected, judged, and shamed as they seek to transform their lives.

I can think of no more fitting response than tears of joy when the water for life appeal allows Nicaraguans to capture and use desperately needed rain water and make simple water-filters that will change lives.

I hope we will continue to be tears for our world, for the lack of justice, for the lack of hope, for the lack of opportunity and for our treatment of it. For if Jesus wept then it is surely good enough for us, and as he showed, our tears must propel us to act.

Christmas reminds me that our tears are not only stored and recorded, but that hope appears in the most unexpected ways. It shows us that God’s response and the one we are called to, is always incarnational. We can’t do it from a distance. We can’t do it half-heartedly. We have to get involved. We have to leave it out and we have to keep doing it. We have to accept the challenges, difficulties and misunderstandings that come with this, to recognise our own limits and to persevere.

We may think we have little to offer, but as Mother Teresa said, ‘the ocean is made up of drops.’ For it is the little we offer that can transform the world, and as the great advent promise declares ‘One day there will be a new earth, and every tear will be dried.’
Here he writes about how these two Amos partners continue to do such important work under such difficult circumstances.

“Rafiah al salah.” “Sorry can you repeat that?” “Rafiah al salah. The leg of return.”

Each of the first-year students is cutting out their own legs in Silwan. They have just started this two-year course, so this is lesson 101 for these young people, (aged 14–16), who have dropped out of school and are now learning a trade at NECC’s TVET programme in Shejaiya, Gaza City.

We chat and laugh with them about football and why they are on the course, and try to explain that above the attractive at St Clement’s, Amos’ home, hangs a Key of Return — an installation with the names of the 500 abandoned Palestinian villages (from 1948), which the 1.2 million refugees in Gaza call home.

We ask if any have attended the Great March of Return marches, which have been running for the last 8 months — the riots and losses and of course those who all have. A few minutes later at the NECC primary care clinic, a 12-year-old boy limps past; he has been there to get treatment for his wound and a new dressing. He is one of the 5,502 people injured by live ammunition during these predominantly peaceful demonstrations.

Dr Iva Tarazi, the Executive Director of Necc, tells me how the Israeli’s are using fragmentation bullets to disintegrate on impact and shatter the bone. This leads to complex surgery (often involving multiple operations), and the need for frequent dressing. He is one of the 5,502 people injured by live ammunition during these predominantly peaceful demonstrations.

Dr Mayer Ayyad, Medical Director at the Al Ahli Hospital, urges this up to me that 1969’s children/young adults are waiting for amputations because they have developed infections and their legs are not healing properly — nearly all of these could have been avoided.

As of the 18th October, 217 Palestinians have been killed in these marches including 38 boys and 2 girls (1 Israeli); 22,897 have been injured (40 Israelis), and 11,913 hospitalised, of whom 2,084 were children.

“Talofah al salah.” “Sorry can you repeat that?” “Talofah al salah. The leg of return.”

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We were very privileged to be able to have Dr. Swee Ang speak at Amos Day back in September. The stories and thoughts she shared about her involvement in the most recent Gaza Flotilla were incredibly inspiring and challenging and created an electric atmosphere in the room. Gill Hewitt was able to grab a quick chat with her before she spoke to the meeting and we have picked out a few highlights from their conversation.

You’re approaching a significant birthday where most people might be planning a big party or a special holiday but you decided to do something completely different, something mad and dangerous, but ultimately true to yourself, tell us what you decided to do?

I was born in the year of the Nakba when the Palestinians lost their home (1948), this is a very special year for them and it is also a very special year for me. So when I was asked by the Palestinians whether I would go on the Freedom Flotilla, I can’t say no, because I’m their friend. When a friend asks, “can you visit us?” The answer is always ‘yes’. My family were all up in arms so I said, look here, my birthday is coming, and I’m entitled to a birthday present, not to myself but to them. So this will be my birthday present to them. After that they all agreed!

So what happened? I think you were possibly aware of what the likely outcome would be before you set off.

The outcome was, I think, predictable. Flotillas have been attempting to go regularly since Gaza was under blockade, and only the first flotilla got in. The one in 2010 had ten of the delegates killed, 9 instantly, and one from his wounds later on. Subsequently many boats tried to get in, all of them were captured, the boats sold, and the people on the boat put in prison and then deported. So this is not an exception.

To buy your copy, please visit our website at www.amos.org.uk with all proceeds going towards our work. Our website is published by AMOS Trust.

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“Politicians are afraid. The media is afraid. They don’t print the truth. But the truth will still come out. The truth belongs to God.”
“Do I feel hopeless sometimes? At some points yes, like when you expect things of the community where these girls come from, they are not giving them the hand they’re supposed to have given them.”

**BEATRICE AKUMU**

**GLAD’S HOUSE, MOMBASA, KENYA**

As one of the facilitators said, “It’s like on a flight. When the flight attendant says, ‘Make sure you put your own breathing mask on first, before helping the person next to you.’ She is absolutely right. If we can’t breathe we are of no use to anyone.”

Devon gave these girls a chance to breathe to step back and to start to dream of the world they want for the girls and young women they work with. It also gave us a chance to listen and to learn. “On Her Terms is a network, and that’s providing additional strength for us to be forth, for us to push on with what we are doing: to join together as a community, through the organisations we work for, to talk for those girls and to empower others to share the experiences of these girls.”

I believe society will understand girls and join us in our work to make things easier and safer for these girls.

Beatrice tunes her self-defence training so that it reaches younger girls and women on the street. “Whether you are a 30-year-old woman, a social worker, a support worker at a police station, a community worker, a lawyer, a nurse, a psychologist, you have to be ready to make these young girls feel safe. My hope for the girls I work with, for all girls on the street is that one day society will accept them and their choices.

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For girls on the streets it’s going to be a long journey, and this journey is happening. I can see a lot of changes ahead. I feel like we are now joined to the whole, our voices are becoming bigger, and louder; louder.”
Burundi is one of the poorest countries in the world — it comes 186th out of 188 in the Human Development Index and has some of the highest levels of corruption. If it wasn’t hard enough already for children on the streets, a recent government announcement stating that children cannot be on the streets has made it a whole lot worse and given police a mandate for round-ups and arrests. Children are placed in adult prisons, including, unimaginably, a boy we met who was only six. They are kept there for a week and then released, as the prison can do nothing with them.

For girls on the streets, life is particularly dangerous. They may be arrested, they may be imprisoned (with their children), or often the police will threaten arrest and imprisonment if they will not have sex with them.

The barriers they face can feel insurmountable: family rejection, violence, sexual abuse, few if any opportunities and the judgement and stigma placed on them by others.

New Generation’s girls’ worker, Marlène, recounted meeting a group of adolescent girls who’d been living in an unfinished building. When she asked about their family they told her: “We are our own mother and father.”

New Generation encourages a sense of belonging and family for children who have often never experienced that. The involvement of young people as leaders in their programmes is central to their philosophy of challenging perceptions and developing a new style of leader for Burundi.

Their work with girls is developing fast, and when I visited in July they had just launched their first young women’s entrepreneurship programme.

Viola, who has been involved with New Generation since she was a child and is now a trained chef, addressed the young women about to start the entrepreneurship programme: “I’m now in a place I dreamed to be. If you girls use what you have now, you will go far. Don’t follow others’ dreams, follow your own.”

Dieudonné Nahimana, founder of New Generation, our partner in Burundi, will be in the UK early next year. Look out for opportunities to hear more from him about New Generation’s work. Sign up to receive our Enews at amostrust.org/email-list-sign-up

To find out more about New Generation Burundi, please visit amostrust.org/new-generation
ON HER TERMS
GIVING GIRLS WHO HAVE NEVER HAD A FIRST CHANCE, A SECOND

Photo: Debbie Bedford
ON HER TERMS
PICKWELL MANOR CONFERENCE OCTOBER 2018

OPPOSITE PAGE
Selfie — Lola shows her family in Mexico her new friends from Tanzania, USA, UK and Kenya: “They all smile the same.”

#ONHERTERMS
Above left
Message — Revina from Tanzania writing her message of support for her fellow workers and the girls they work with.

Above right
Dance — Hloniphile from South Africa teaching traditional Zulu dance also done with the girls at Umthombo to build confidence.

Above
Home — Pickwell Manor in North Devon became home for a week, a safe space for open and honest conversations.

To find out more about Amos Trust’s On Her Terms campaign, please visit amostrust.org/on-her-terms

PHOTOGRAPHY:
© Amos Trust/Debby Besford

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PHOTOGRAPHY:
© Amos Trust/Debby Besford
8 – 15 JUNE 2019
WOMEN OF THE WEST BANK ACTIVISTS TRIP

This unique trip is limited to 16 places and costs £1,200. To book your place and pay your deposit, please visit amostrust.org/women-of-the-west-bank-2019.

This new women-only tour led by Amos Chair of Trustees Jenny Baker and Bethlehemite and activist Lucy Talgieh will give a unique chance to understand more about issues facing women in Jerusalem and on the West Bank and how we can stand in solidarity with them.

This 8-day (7-night) trip will be based in Bethlehem and Ramallah where you will:

— meet and spend time with women activists
— visit women-run programmes on the West Bank and Jerusalem
— see how projects are using the arts and sports to promote girls and women’s rights
— understand the impact of the illegal Israeli Occupation on women’s lives
— visit women in their homes and enjoy Palestinian hospitality
— visit women whose homes have been destroyed and hear about the impact upon them and their families
— hear about the issues within Palestinian society that women are challenging and how they stand up to the Occupation
— enjoy some great company, laugh lots and be inspired by the people you meet.

You will stay in the Al-Narew Cultural Centre’s new accommodation block in Aida refugee camp for four nights, one night will be a home stay and two nights will be in a hotel in Ramallah.

Lucy Talgieh is the local women’s worker with Amos Trust’s partner Wi’am Reconciliation Centre. She is a local councillor, one of the authors of Exile Palestine, played for the Palestine Netball team and has spoken around the world on women’s rights and the impact of the Occupation.

Jenny Baker is the Chair of Amos Trust. She is Chief Operating Officer for Realhood — a charity that seeks to offer young people vital support through health and education programmes. She’s an author and marathon runner who has led many trips to the West Bank and has spent many years promoting women’s leadership.

If you would like to subsidise the costs of a woman activist and particularly a younger participant who could not afford to take part, please also contact jill@amostrust.org. For full details of this trip, please visit amostrust.org/women-of-the-west-bank-2019.

5 – 14 AUGUST 2019
INDIA ENCOUNTER 2019

Meet the children and their families who are being supported through the work of our partner Karunalaya. Find out about the issues they face, learn about how Karunalaya is walking alongside them to find solutions that are creative, promote resilience and hope, and honour their perseverance.

Join us and experience aspects of South India most people never encounter.

On this trip to India, you will have the chance to watch as the children use theatre to engage and educate local communities about children’s rights, take part in yoga sessions and football training with the children; encounter the children’s traditional drumming and dance, and understand why Amos’ On Her Terms campaign is so necessary for girls and women across the country. The trip is limited to 15 places and we recommend that people book as early as possible. The trip will be led by Amos Director Chris Rose and members of the Karunalaya staff team.

This trip will be of particular interest to those who want to learn more about the lives and experiences of the children with whom Karunalaya works. Learn about their passionate advocacy work and how former street children are leading the campaign to secure legal identities for others, and those who want to experience the manic bustle and colour of an Indian city.

Our Amos Trust India Encounter trip is limited to 15 places and costs £1,350 including your return flight. To book your place and pay your deposit, please visit amostrust.org/india-encounter-2019.

For more information about our India Encounter 2019, please visit amostrust.org/india-encounter-2019.
INTRODUCING LUCY FROM WI’AM

Lucy Talgieh

Autosmart: A mother and her children walking along the illegal Israeli Separation Wall that cuts through Bethlehem surrounding it on three sides.

Lucy Talgieh (below) is a mother and her children walking along the illegal Israeli Separation Wall that cuts through Bethlehem surrounding it on three sides.

Lucy Talgieh

Our lives. But if I were to choose the three other things that most affect women, I would say firstly economic independence, secondly education — we need to educate women but especially girls and boys as to change the patriarchal society we live in and the male domination we experience. Thirdly, women need to take part more in politics — our representation is capped at 20% — that is the quota for women to hold positions in office and we need to change this. To start with, 20% was to empower us, now it holds us back but Fatah and Hamas do not want to change this, they say 20% is enough, no more. I have been elected as a councillor in the Bethlehem district and while we used to have a female Mayor, there are so few women involved in politics and heading up organisations. The higher up you go, the fewer women you see, and it is essential that women are much more involved in the peace process.

At Wi’am, we believe that women can make the change, especially with peace-building. As women, we have to work vertically at a national level to make the change but also horizontally with other women to empower one another and this is the work that Wi’am is committed to and which we undertake with other women in Bethlehem and across the West Bank.

This is why our work with women is so important and I am so glad that you have invited me to the UK to talk about this in December.

For full details of Lucy, Zoughbi and the Choir of Bethlehem’s UK visit, please visit amostrust.org/christmas-2018 or see page 19.

AMOS TRUST

BETHLEHEM CAROL SERVICES 2018

Join us across the country this December when we will be joined by leading peace activists Zoughbi Zoughbi and Lucy Talgieh from Wi’am Reconciliation Centre in Bethlehem and 6 members of the Choir of Bethlehem on their first UK visit.

LONDON Monday 3rd, 19:00 St James’s Piccadilly
BRISTOL Tuesday 4th, 19:30 St Mary Redcliffe
CHELTENHAM Wednesday 5th, 19:00 Christ Church
CANTERBURY Thursday 6th, 19:00 St Peter’s Methodist Church

LONDON Friday 7th, 19:30 * St Luke’s, West Holloway
CAMBRIE Saturday 8th, 19:30 * St Barnabas Church
BRADFORD Sunday 9th, 16:00 Bradford Cathedral
MANCHESTER Monday 10th, 19:30 St John the Evangelist, Old Trafford

* Events where Zoughbi, Lucy and the Choir of Bethlehem are appearing as special guests. For full details, please visit amostrust.org/christmas-2018
infuriating and occasionally numinous — or, as Zionism, desert spirituality and Jerusalem Syndrome, fable, shrine and iconography radiating from the European imagination — the many strands of legend, Middle East. Through Roman roads and refugee camps and desert wadis across Europe and the from monasteries and mountain passes to Bedouin landscapes from the green fields of Kent to the desert dunes of Jordan. This is the story of Just Walk to JERUSALEM.

2017 marked three major anniversaries in the Palestinian struggle: the centenary of the Balfour Declaration, the fiftieth year of Israel’s military occupation of the Palestinian Territories, and the tenth year of the blockade of Gaza.

To change the record after a century of injustices, a pilgrimage set out to walk from London to Jerusalem — in persistence, solidarity and hope. This was my inspiration as a playwright, actor and musician to work with Amos Trust to mount Just Walk from June to November 2017. Calling for full equal rights for everyone in the Holy Land, more than one hundred walkers took part — nine walked the whole way. This is their story — walking (journalists and travellers)’ tales on paths of pilgrimage and conquest, from monasteries and mountain passes to Bedouin camps and desert wadis across Europe and the Middle East. Through Roman roads and refugee routes, the book traces the pull of Jerusalem on the European imagination — the many strands of legend, fabulism, shrine and iconography radiating from the Holy Land and its three faiths.

Between these paths and themes of Balfour and Jaffa, desert spirituality and Jerusalem Syndrome, is a chronicle of serendipity: happenstance, infatuation and occasionally numerology — or, as pilgrims might say, encounters with the Divine.

“What’s so impressive about Justin Butcher’s book is the intertwining of his personal face-to-face experiences in Israel and Palestine against the backdrop of the social and political realities there. This book displays an empathy that is unusual in discussions of that tangled and tragic situation — the kind of empathy that will be essential in arriving at any decent solution to it.”

BRIAN KNOB — ARTIST

“This is an incredibly moving and fascinating book. Read it to learn what really goes on in the Holy Land but also for a personal and powerful pilgrim’s tale of walking thousands of miles with love and solidarity.”

RASHID NASSRASHI — ARTIST

2017 Turner Prize nominee

“Justin Butcher’s crisp and vibrant writing style grips the reader’s hand and leads us on a fascinating and thought-provoking tour through history into the heart of the politics of contemporary Palestine.”

JEREMY HARDY — COMEDIAN

The River Qiwa, I’m Sorry I Haven’t A Clue

“When Justin approached me about Amos organising Just Walk to Jerusalem, I knew immediately that we wanted to do it. Here we would do it in a different matter. ‘Walking to Jerusalem’ captures the vision, passion, commitment, love, stupidity and sheer bloody-mindedness that got us through, and made it such an inspirational journey.”

CHRIS ROSE — ARTIST

Walking To Jerusalem: Blisters, hope and other facts on the ground. JUSTIN BUTCHER

WORDS: Justin Butcher

PHOTOGRAPHY: Mark Bennett

Amos Trust

7 — 14 APRIL 2019

AMOS ROAD CLUB TOUR OF PALESTINE

Solidarity begins on a bike. Freedom of movement is a right that Palestinians are denied. Following the success of our Giro d’Italia protest Palestine ride, we are planning our second road/gravel/ hybrid bike tour of Palestine. This trip is for more serious cyclists and those who realise it’s not just about the bike. All cyclists must be confident in riding sportive distances as you will be cycling 70–100km most days with frequent climbs (many over 12% gradient) in hot weather. You will be joined by a support vehicle for all but the first day’s ride which will carry water and snacks. As part of the cost, you will receive a unique Amos Road Club cycling top. Please note that you will need to bring/ organise your own bike!

For full details please visit amostrust.org/ amos-road-club-palestine-2019

29 OCT — 9 NOVEMBER 2019

WALK THE WEST BANK

Two years after the end of Just Walk to Jerusalem, Holy Land Trust and Siraj Centre are offering a chance to walk the West Bank again — from Jenin to Jericho along Masar Ibrahim trail. We’ll follow the path which climbs to Duma and Kafir Malek (where we have the choice to visit the Taybeh Brewing Company), before descending down the Wadi al- Auja and into the Jordan Valley. Then continue with a brief walk into Jericho, the lowest city on Earth, staying in guest houses, home-stays, Bedouin camps, and hotels along the way. The trip will be led by a local Palestinian guide and two of the Just Walker’s — Denise and Tim, who both completed Just Walk in 2017.

To book your place and pay your deposit, please visit our website. For more information please visit amostrust.org/ walk-the-west-bank-2019

AMOS DAY 2019

SATURDAY 28TH SEPTEMBER AT AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL HQ

7 — 14 APRIL 2019

AMOS HOME REBUILD

AMOS HOME REBUILD are an opportunity to bring hope to a Palestinian family and community by helping them to rebuild their demolished home. Join us in Palestine in April.

24 — 27 MAY 2019

AMOS ROAD CLUB RIDE HITS THE PEAKS

The annual Amos Road Club ride is open to all ages and abilities. Next year’s ride will take place in the Peak District.

9 — 18 OCTOBER 2019

A TASTE OF PALESTINE CULINARY TOUR

An amazing 10-day trip based in the kitchens, restaurants, and markets of Jerusalem, Bethlehem, Hebron and Nazareth.

AMOS DAY 2019: WITH GILBERT ACEMBERE & DÂMARIUS E. ALBUQUERQUE

Join us next September when we’ll be joined by Gilberto (above left) and Dâmaris (above right) from Nicaragua for a full update on CEPAL’s work and the situation on the ground. Photography: © Amos Trust/Clive Harrison
It’s very simple — it lets kids smile and celebrate Christmas for Wi’am in Bethlehem. Lucy will be leading our ‘women of the west bank’ tour in June 2019 which is only for women. She will have the chance to ‘Smile’.

It is the most important time of year for women in the camps, to celebrate Christmas. It will allow Wi’am to provide support for women through their women’s programme in the desperately difficult winter months.

£10 will pay for food and drink for a child coming to the Smile Christmas Programme — how can you celebrate Christmas without lots of food?

£20 will buy Christmas presents that will help the children with their school work

£45 will pay for 3 women to attend a weekly empowerment session which covers hospitality, transport and educational materials

£200 will pay for food and drink for a child coming to the Smile Christmas Appeal for Wi’am

£250 will buy women’s work — educational materials

£40 will pay for educational materials

£100 will provide support for the women’s programmes — this will allow Wi’am to provide support for the women’s programme and for the children.

£200 will provide support for the women’s programmes

£120 will pay for a pumpkin for the children.

We are seeking to raise £15,000 for our 2018 Christmas Appeal. If you are concerned that your Christmas donation won’t get through in time, then don’t worry — in Bethlehem they celebrate Christmas three times from December to January!

Thank you
O LITTLE TOWN OF BETHLEHEM
AMOS TRUST CHRISTMAS CARDS 2018

...HOW STILL WE SEE THEE LIE

Proceeds from the sale of this year’s Amos Trust Christmas card will go to support the ‘smile’ children’s holiday programme and women’s empowerment projects run by Wi’am Conflict Resolution Centre.
To buy your cards, please visit AMOSTRUST.ORG/CHRISTMAS-CARDS-2018

#CHANGETHERECORD