

WORDS OF HOPE

A NEWSPAPER FROM AMOS TRUST

WINTER 2018



WORDS **OF HOPE** #5 **IN THIS** ISSUE

FRONT COVER

BEACH DAY: The On Her Terms participants and Amos staff practising self-care on Putsborough Beach - October 2018. Photograph: © Amos Trust/Debby Besford

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HOPE TASTES LIKE... Phoebe Rison from Sabeel-Kairos and Amos Chris Rose cooking up a storm at Greenbelt Festival — August 2018. Photographs: © Amos Trust/Nick Welsh

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WEARE TEARS... WORDS OF HOPE - EDITORIAL

WORDS Chris Rose

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 live 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.'

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REGISTERED CHARITY NO.





OPEN THE BORDERS: Under blockade since 2007, watch our short film about Gaza. vimeo.com/amostrust/open-the-borders

OPEN THE BORDERS The on-going blockade and daily power cuts in Gaza are having a devastating impact.

MIFTAH ALEAWDA THE KEY OF RETURN

Chris Rose visited AL AHLI HOSPITAL and NECC in Gaza City in October. Here he writes about how these two Amos partners continue to do such important work under such difficult circumstances.

WORDS Chris Rose **PHOTOGRAPHY** Nick Welsh



call home.

We ask if any have attended the Great March of Return marches, which have been running for the last 6 months — the tutor laughs and says of course they 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 Issa Tarazi, the Executive Director of NECC, tells

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. Gaza's health service is not coping. Patients are being released too quickly, essential drugs are on zero stock and many people rely on Al Ahli for surgery. Both Al Ahli and NECC also provide on going treatment, offering this free to those that cannot afford to pay.



"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."

A PLACE OF PEACE

Al Ahli, in the centre of Gaza City, treats over 45,000 patients each year. It is a haven of peace and hope in the middle of one of the world's most troubled areas. Restrictions on movement and imports mean that the Al Ahli Hospital is often without basic medicines and life is made even more stressful with limited supplies of electricity, food, water, fuel and

"Miftah aleawda."

- "Sorry can you repeat that"
- "Miftah aleawda. The key of return"

Each of the first-year students is cutting out their own keys in fibreboard. 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 I try to explain that above the altar/table 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

me how the Israeli's are using fragmentation bullets that disintegrate on impact and shatter the bone. This leads to complex surgery (often involving multiple operations), and the need for frequent dressing changes and antibiotics, which people cannot afford. Dr Mayer Ayyad, Medical Director at the Al Ahli Hospital, picks this up and tells me that 190 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

"When life and death are equal. When people cannot see that one is better than the other, it is very worrying. For many in Gaza this is the case. This is why they march and will continue to march."

DR SUHAILA TARAZZI, AL AHLI DIRECTOR.

Suhaila went on to talk of a 19-year-old whose leg they had to amputate. He was an avid footballer and was in despair. When he came in for follow-on care, the doctors noticed, and Suhaila and others started to talk to him about life and the options ahead. Gradually through their support he has started to hope — this week he came in smiling saying how he has started to play football for those with 1 leg and to say to others they must not despair.

The hospital described their desire to provide more psychosocial support for young people who have been shot and injured. We already support the psychosocial aspect of NECC's TVET programmes and have supported the hospital's children's programme and are looking at how we can respond.

Sarah, who was accompanying me, is a systemic psychotherapist, specialising in families and young people and is also a qualified supervisor. Her view was that the quality of care provided was of a very high standard with well thought-through programmes and very strong support for the frontline workers from Lubna, the Health Programme Coordinator at NECC, and Mohammed Naqa, the social work lead at Al Ahli Hospital.

Lubna took us to see NECC's Early Years' clinic, which is so busy providing integrated care in some of the most needy parts of Gaza. All of the NECC and Al Ahli's early years' nutrition and care programmes are inundated with families. The on-going blockade and daily power cuts, (20 hours a day), are having a devastating impact -30% of children are anaemic; many have diseases caused by deteriorating sanitation and many more are malnourished.

Lubna then introduced us to their psychosocial programmes (run daily) for children and young people in these local areas. They use mixed groups for children and separate into girls' and boys' groups as they become teenagers. These groups help these children to live with the on-going trauma and stress they experience, to help them to breathe, to laugh, to dance, to draw, to build their resilience and to have hope. For the girls it is a chance to talk about their

lives, of the violence and difficulties they experience and what it means to be a girl living in Gaza.

NECC TVET programmes are massively oversubscribed as youth unemployment is well over 60%. The team at NECC are always seeking to ensure that their programmes meet up with any shortages in the labour market. They have made a major revamp to their women's sewing programmes and have created new courses in air conditioning and solar energy. They have also developed their support-into-employment for graduates and created a new programme which trains young people in entrepreneurial skills and gives micro credit grants to those with the 'most-likely-to-succeed' ideas.

Mohammed and Suhaila described how Al Ahli is leading on 'Rosey October' (named after the pink ribbon which marks Breast Cancer awareness month). They were particularly keen to pass on their thanks to all those involved in Women 4 Women and for making sure that the women in Gaza are not forgotten. They went on to talk of how those who have been through treatment no longer want to call themselves survivors, but 'Challengers'. As they have challenged and continue to challenge the diagnoses and they encourage others to challenge this and to fight against cancer.

Dr Mayer said there is some evidence that survival rates are improving as a result of the hospital's community outreach and through similar initiatives and are getting up towards 45%, 5 years after treatment (in the UK it is over 81%). More women are starting to self-examine, they are going for treatment earlier and awareness levels are rising among men.

However, the massive shortages of chemotherapy drugs (women cannot complete a term); the lack of any radiotherapy in Gaza; the difficulty of gaining permission from Israeli authorities to travel to the West Bank for treatment, and the high cost of this to a society on its knees, means that progress is limited.

There is a long way to go before women in Gaza can get the treatment readily available to women living less than 5 miles away in Israel.

If you would like to make a donation to the Amos appeal for Gaza which supports both Al Ahli Hospital and NECC, simply visit amostrust.org/gaza-appeal

FROM BEIRUT TO JERUSALEM

Orthopedic surgeon, co-founder of Medical Aid for Palestinians and Gaza Freedom Flotilla participant — the inspirational DR SWEE ANG joined us at Amos Day back in September. Gill Hewitt spoke to her.

INTERVIEW Gill Hewitt ARTICLE Nive Hall PHOTOGRAPHY Mark Kensett



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?

When a friend asks, 'Can you visit us?' The answer is always 'yes.' My family all were 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!

you set off.

But you see the reason why we are going, is maybe But the resilience of the Palestinians is such that

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. two-fold. Firstly, the situation in Gaza is as bad as ever, and secondly, what is happening now is that from 30th March onwards, the people in Gaza have launched the Great March of Return protests and the Israeli's have responded with a policy of shooting to maim. So, Israeli Army snipers have shot at unarmed demonstrators, wounding them deliberately, especially in their legs so that they will never walk again. That's a very cruel policy. If you maim someone they will remain crippled, especially in a place like Gaza, unable to do any work; and will continue to demoralise the communities. So the price is very high. they're launching another unarmed demonstration. Of course the shocking thing is that this time they're being shot to cripple. And the high velocity gunshot wounds are much more difficult to treat.

LEFT

We were very privileged to be able to hear from DR SWEE CHAI ANG 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.

I was born in the year of the Nakba when the Palestinians lost their home (1948) so this year 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.

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

Gaza has been under blockade for 12 years, the hospitals are depleted of resources, electricity is very scarce, and the whole community is suffering. And, you know, I think the Gazans are at the end of their tether — they want to show that despite their suffering, despite the blockade, they will still demand their rights to return home. So I have to go and try to take medicines and show my solidarity.

So the result so far of the Freedom Flotilla, apart from your imprisonment and those of the rest of the crew, has been the confiscation of the drugs that haven't reached Gaza; the selling of the boats that you sailed in for Israeli projects, and you have been banned from Palestine — I believe for the second time?

Yes, I don't know whether the banning is cumulative. If it is, then I think in my lifetime I'll never be allowed to go back.

When they intercepted us with all our drugs, intravenous antibiotics and dressings, it was in international water, so they've got no right to intercept us. They could have let us sail into Gaza waters and then get us, saying we have entered Gaza waters illegally, but then that would create a dispute on whether the blockade of Gaza is legal and that's a whole can of worms, for them.

We were very well prepared. We were unarmed. We spent two days learning non-violence, so nobody loses their temper or uses bad words against the Israeli army.

The Flotilla is completely tracked by satellite, so you can see exactly where they intercepted us in international waters and you can see the track (we took) from that point onwards, forcing us into the Israeli port — Ashdod.

So I think the technical term for what happened, is piracy. But nobody's allowed to use that word. So I will say, 'they abducted us and forced us into their territory, put us in prison and stole all our belongings and made life pretty miserable.'

And you sustained injuries?

Yes, to my ribs, and the captain was treated appallingly.

We had a Norwegian fishing boat. It's a good boat, very strong and sturdy and completely refurbished. So the idea is that we donate the boat to Gaza and that's donation number one.

Then we had 114 boxes of intravenous antibiotics and dressings and a special type of antibiotic for treating severe sepsis, which they had requested, and that we had sourced with the help of Amos Trust and others. What has happened is called robbery.

You've been involved in this struggle for a long time but we see the situation getting worse not better. Do you have hope?

the truth. But the truth will still come out. The truth belongs to God."

"Politicians are afraid. The media is afraid. They don't print

Yes. A lot of hope. This is a dilemma, because I should despair. But I don't. And I'll tell you why. Having been involved with the Palestinians for 36 years, really we've been through difficult times together, we've been through good times together, and we know that this is not going to end, except on a high note.

The Palestinians have risen above every tragedy. After the Sabra and Chatila massacres, when I first met Palestinians when I was working as a trauma surgeon, the children, you know they inspired me. They're not afraid, they're standing before destroyed homes and mass graves and a new generation has grown up. I've just come back from Beirut, for the commemoration of the massacres. Every year, I'm so moved, when I see Palestinian refugee children coming from all over Lebanon to commemorate. They're growing up and so Palestine is still there, it exists in them.

Palestine is even bigger, the 750,000 Palestinians driven into exile, have now become 6.5 million and we have to support them. No two ways about it, because now, with American policy, cutting their support for the UN, food rations will go down, schools will close, they will suffer.

This is the time when we who support the Palestinians have a real chance of standing up for them and helping them, and if we will, there will be justice and there will be peace and freedom.

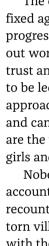
We know it is a long road. But we're strong. We might be growing old, but the younger people are there and they are strong. So I think we have hope. And they are not going to give up. The people under occupation will not give up. Look at what's happening in Gaza, Gaza is still there, what's happening in West Bank, West Bank is still there. And what is happening to us, we are growing bigger. 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.

So I am very optimistic. It's going to be a tough struggle, but let's be strong. I am an Orthopaedic surgeon at The Barts and Royal London Hospital and my colleagues were so worried for me, they were sharing all the messages I sent with each other and so on.

The moment I stepped into our department for a morning meeting after I was released, they all clapped. They are not clapping for me — they are clapping for the Palestinians. It was so moving. Normally orthopaedic surgeons are quite right wing, but it's changing. It's changing. Because people love justice, we can't help it. Because God made us that way.

'From Beirut to Jerusalem', is published by The Other Press and is available now through our website with all proceeds going towards our WOMAN 4 WOMAN APPEAL for the women of Gaza. To buy your copy, please visit our website at amostrust.org/from-beirut-to-jerusalem

DR SWEE ANG speaking at Amos Day — Saturday 29th September 2018. Swee was the first female orthopaedic consultant appointed to the St Bartholomew and the Royal London Hospitals and is founder of Medical Aid for Palestinians (MAP).



could continue.

The space for girls and young women to tell their own story, be heard, and responded to, is key to the work On Her Terms sets out to achieve. Too often, young women and girls on the streets are spoken for, or spoken about, in terms that they'd never choose for themselves.

BREATHE SHARING OUR COLLECTIVE **STRENGTH**

WORDS Karin Joseph рнотодкарну Debby Besford

NO BOUNDARIES Differences start to fall away as the On Her Terms participants from Egypt, Mexico, USA, Tanzania, Kenya, India, South Africa and the UK start to relax in Devon.

WE SWAM IN THE SEA, fully clothed in the October Atlantic; hysterical laughter pealed through the air. It was Thursday, and we had come down to the beach, taking a breather from our workshop sessions to make the most of a sunny, lunchtime break. One participant reflected that this week gave her a chance to be surrounded by 'trees not concrete... no pollution, no problems!'

Many expressed how good it was to be able to have the space to step away from the challenges of their day-to-day, frontline work with young women and girls; to meet others doing the same and to build a network of support that crosses boundaries.

And these boundaries — (of language, context, and culture) — fell down all week. Women from Egypt, Mexico, the USA, Tanzania, from the UK, Kenya, India and South Africa spent time listening to each other, sharing their approaches with young women on the streets, and supporting each other in finding solutions to the challenges their girls face. Despite their vastly different settings and contexts, there were far more commonalities than differences in their experiences and those of the girls whom they support. "We all smile the same," (Ifasina).

What came out strongly from these women is that this work is relentless. It is subject to so many threats and hazards (political, financial, organisational), and these hazards can even extend to their own personal safety when fighting for the rights of marginalised groups on the streets. Rosa and Lola have both been working with children on the streets of Mexico City with their organisation Casa Alianza for close to twenty-five years. They shared how they've kept their lifelong commitment to this work; a vocation, not merely a job.

Nyangi, who teaches self-defence to young women involved in commercial sex work, taught us her techniques and spoke of her dreams to expand her self-defence training so that it reaches younger girls in schools in Tanzania. Liz, from Kenya, and Julia, from San Francisco, spoke of the challenges they shared when working with girls in prison; how being imprisoned affects a girl's view of herself and of the world around her. Selvam and Bhuvana, street outreach workers in Chennai, India, led us in their Theatre of the Oppressed methodology — a powerful tool they use with pavement-dwelling communities to enable them to come up with their own solutions and talk about controversial issues.

What was also shared was that their work, particularly in organisations which are not solely focussed on girls, is often isolating and overwhelming and progress is slow and halting. This can quickly demoralise. Challenging community acceptance of child marriage, for example, takes years of pushing for change, as does campaigning for changes to police treatment of children on the streets.

But in Devon, ON HER TERMS became a place to pause on their journey. "The idea of being recognised to come here and talk about what we do is, in itself, a huge moment." (Beatrice, Kenya). Here they were able to take up the space they are rarely able to claim, to talk as professionals, teach their peers and learn. They laughed, cried and worked together; planned future action together. It also became a space to breathe, to connect as women, to cook for each other, teach each other dances, to feel free and run into the sea with each other! We spent time learning about what works and what doesn't work well with young women on the streets.

"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



ON BEATRICE'S TERM

Lead girls' social worker at Glad's House in Kenya, Beatrice was visiting the UK for the first time as part of the On Her Terms conference in Devon — October 2018

The consensus was clear - going in with our own fixed agendas, seeking hard outcomes, expecting progress in short time-frames, and relying on burnedout workers, all led to failure. Whereas a focus on trust and relationship-building, enabling decisions to be led by the girls themselves, keeping a flexible approach and the awareness that progress takes time and can look different for each young woman — these are the values that need to underpin the work with girls and young women on the street.

Nobel Peace Laureate Leymah Gbowee, in her account of Liberia during and after the civil war, recounts memories of her early work going to wartorn villages on behalf of an NGO to conduct activities with the women and children there. She went equipped with activities, exercises, methodologies in her 'toolkit' to help them.

When she arrived, the women in the village sat in a circle and she asked them to quickly introduce themselves to the group before they got going with the actual session she'd planned. Five hours later, the introductions were still ongoing; the fire was burning embers and food had been brought so that the circle

The experiences of the women of the village were unimaginably hard. They also had pressing immediate needs, for themselves and their families. But what these women needed urgently, more than anything, Gbowee realised, was to tell their stories and be heard by each other.

Alternatively, these girls' stories are forgotten about and their rights and potential ignored — in the juvenile jail in San Francisco, the pavement-dwelling communities in Chennai, the estates of south London, or on the streets of Durban.

Telling their own stories and those of the girls they work with, became a central thread running through our workshop in Devon. As a group, we were introduced to a way of telling our own story, which builds up our power and gives our story the context and space it deserves. Being heard by other women was necessary and empowering. Already, these

techniques are being used by women in their work with girls in their communities.

The stories of girls and young women on the street may feel too hard for them to share. But storytelling can also be a process of healing; and we learned how this had been used to great effect when girls and young women had the opportunity to advocate for themselves.

The simple truth is that unless we care for the workers, then we cannot care for girls and young women on the street. Unless these women feel supported and empowered, able to persevere in the face of numerous challenges, able to tell their story and to work through the issues and difficulties they face, then we can't expect the girls to be able to go through the same process.

I can see myself in each of your stories. LIZ, 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 women 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 stop, to listen and to learn — to identify how 'we together' start to take On Her Terms forward.

As part of this we began exciting work on a global statement of rights for young women and girls on the street — statements of intent and action towards a world where girls experience no barriers — and as the women go back to their projects they will be enabling the voices of the girls' they work with, to be added to this from around the world.

We are at the start of the next part of an exciting journey. Already this is being championed by the Amos community in the UK, starting with the amazing community support we received in Devon: people hosting us in their homes, cooking for us, putting on community events, and now through people being involved in fundraising challenges and becoming regular givers.

Beatrice Akumu, lead girls' social worker Glad's House, Mombasa, Kenya writes...

"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.

For me - I might be there today, tomorrow I won't be there. Does it mean, when I'm not there, will this girl's dreams vanish? So it's sometimes painful, when a girl really wants to succeed but society says no. 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.

One day they will not condemn them for bad choices or label them with negative names, but instead be ready to give them a second chance. One day society will join them in their journey to fulfil their dreams.

My dream is that society will view the girls on the street like people who have dreams, who have ambitions; they have power, they are not powerless. Do I think this is going to happen? We are on the right track.

On Her Terms is a network, and that's providing additional strength for us to go forth, for us to push on with what we are doing; to join together as a campaign, through the organisations we work for, to talk for those girls and to empower society 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.

This feels like a rejuvenation of power for our organisation [Glad's House Kenya]. Through this sharing - it will reach a bigger audience. And already, the idea of being recognised to come here and talk about what we do is, in itself, a huge moment and a life-changing thing for a girl.

Let nobody treat these girls like powerless people that are there to be helped. They can be whatever they want to be. They can achieve their dreams, they can go places. And be like any other woman. Sit in this position I am sittina. Travel to where they want.

For girls on the streets it's going to be a long journey, but hopefully one day... I can see a lot of changes ahead. I feel like we are now joined to the world, our voices are becoming bigger, and louder, louder."

If you would like to become more involved with ON HER TERMS and to keep up to date with ongoing developments, please email karin@amostrust.org



A NEW BURUNDI



ON HER TERMS WORDS OF HOPE LITURGY



Our lives are not measured by the number of breaths we take, But by the moments that take our breath away.

As a woman I have no country As a woman I want no country As a woman my country is the whole world.

We stand with women and girls all over the world, We stand with those whose dreams have been fulfilled We stand with those whose dreams will come to pass We stand with those whose dreams are locked inside We stand with those who dare not dream.

We think of our sisters who have to survive on the streets, We cry out against the way they are judged We cry out against the way they are treated We recognise the choices they have made We recognise the mistakes they have made We stand in awe of their resilience We weep the tears they are no longer able to cry.

When women come together extraordinary things happen, We will not accept the things we cannot change We will change the things we cannot accept And we will do it all the time So beware our smile.

ON HER TERMS

With thanks to Angela davis, audre lorde, virginia woolf, MAYA ANGELOU, and ISABELLE ALLENDE.

WEAREOUR OWN MOTHER AND FATHER

WORDS Karin Joseph рнотодгарну Rebekah McKay-Smith

"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."

New Generation continues to campaign to raise awareness of the issues Burundian young people face and are increasing their focus on the challenges facing girls living and working on the streets.

BURUNDI IS ONE OF THE POOREST COUNTRIES IN THE WORLD — it comes 184th 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.

Most young women and girls on the streets, many of whom are mothers, have never dreamed of an opportunity to develop their skill base or to open their own business.

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."

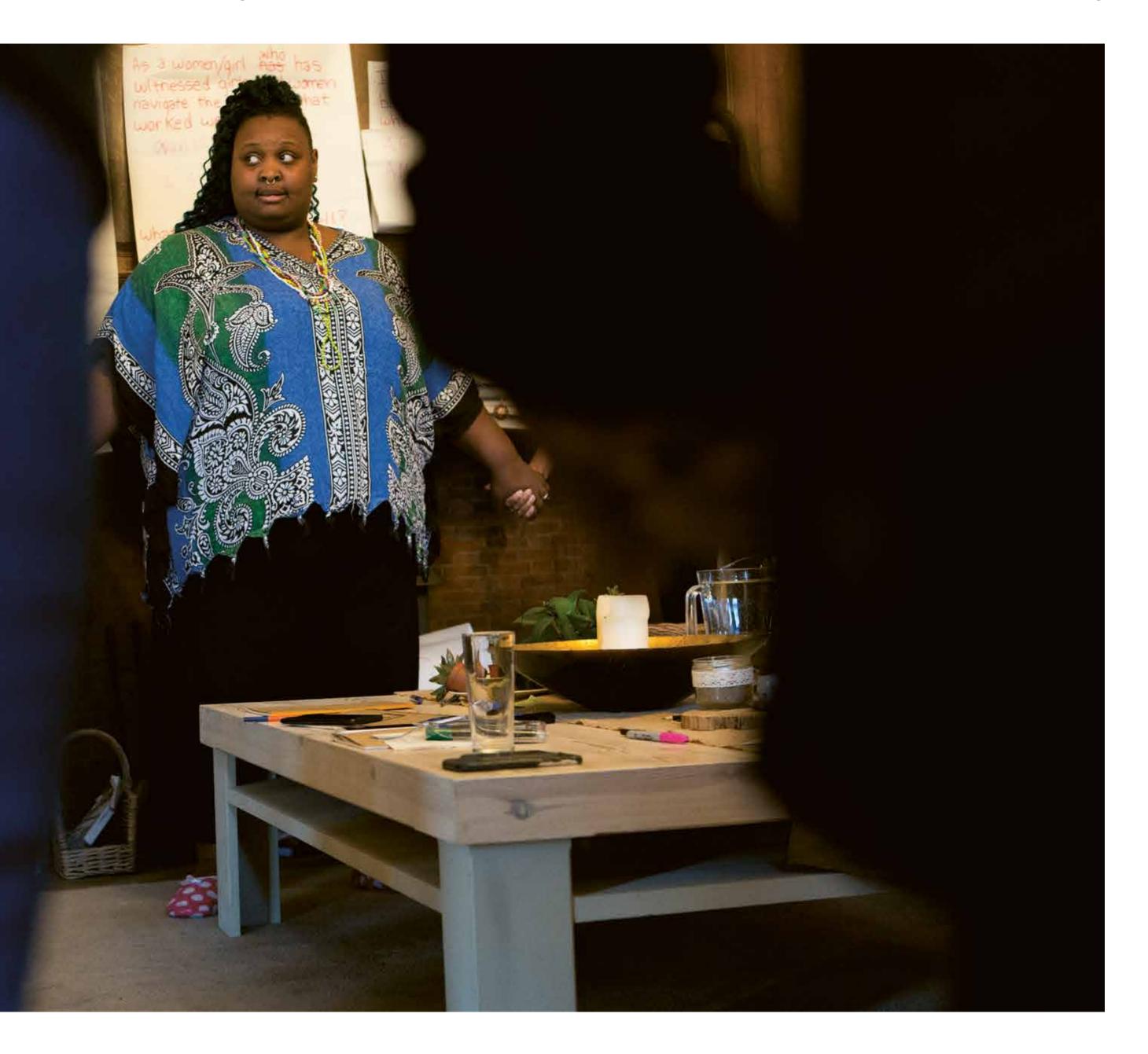
Dieudonné Nahimana, founder of New Generation, our partner in Burundi, will be in the UK early next year. Look out for opportunities to hear more from him about New Generation's work. Sign up to receive our Enews at amostrust.org/email-list-sign-up

To find out more about New Generation Burundi, please visit amostrust.org/new-generation



Ifasina from young women's freedom in San Francisco, recognising that there are far more commonalities than differences across the 8 different countries, cultures, contexts and experiences — October 2018.

ON HER TERMS GIVING GIRLS WHO HAVE NEVER HAD A FIRST CHANCE, A SECOND



рнотодгарн Debby Besford



ON HER TERMS PICKWELL MANOR CONFERENCE OCTOBER 2018

PHOTOGRAPHY:







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

ABOVE LEFT \mathbf{work} — Revina from Tanzania writing her message of support for her fellow workers and the girls they work with.

DANCE — Hloniphile from South Africa teaching traditional Zulu dance she does with the girls a safe space for open and honest at Umthombo to build confidence. conversations.

номе — Pickwell Manor in North Devon became home for a week,

© Amos Trust/Debby Besford

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







8 – 15 JUNE 2019 **WOMEN OF THE WEST BANK ACTIVISTS TRIP**

рнотодгарну Mark Kensett

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 Alrowwad 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 lead women's worker with Amos Trust's partner Wi'am Reconciliation Centre. She is a local councillor, one of the authors of Kairos 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 Redthread — 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 women 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**

PHOTOGRAPHY Tom Merilion

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

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 living on the street. An important part of this trip will include joining Karunalaya's outreach teams to experience their work on the railway platforms where many street children end up; and witness their advocacy work with pavement-dwelling communities and join in with their informal education sessions with child labourers in the local fishing community.

India is a heady mix of sights and sounds, food and politics and there will be the opportunity to savour fabulous south Indian food and to learn to cook with members of the Karunalaya team. You will hear about the current political situation and the challenges facing the country from activists campaigning for Dalit rights.

You will visit Chennai to shop in the local markets and spend a few days out of the city relaxing by the coast.

Accommodation in Chennai will be at the YWCA guest house, in basic but comfortable air-conditioned rooms. The YWCA is set within a green oasis in the middle of this busy, colourful, noisy, and hectic city. 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 Karunalava 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.

For more information about our India Encounter 2019, please visit amostrust.org/india-encounter-2019

INTRODUCING LUCY FROM **WI'AM**

words Lucy Talgieh

BOTTOM:

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

INSET

Lucy Talgieh (below) who heads up the women's work at Wi'am Conflict Resolution Centre in Bethlehem and Zoughbi Zoughbi from Wi'am will be joining us for a series of very special carol services across the UK this December. They will be joined by members of the Choir of Bethlehem, who will be performing in the UK for the very first time.



AT CHRISTMAS, BETHLEHEM HAS A DIFFERENT FEEL there is an excitement and an expectation as we get ready to welcome the King.

I always go to the grotto and sing my favourite carols. I'm never quite sure what they are called in English but with the choir, I used to love singing 'OH COME ALL YE FAITHFUL', I guess it is my favourite.

But for us, it is not just Christmas — we have a message of Easter and Resurrection. Jesus carried the cross for 14 stations on his Via Dolorosa — we have had to carry the cross for over 70 years and now, the Christian community is only 1% of the population and we wonder if we will be here at all in 25 years time.

It is why statements like the Kairos Palestine call are so important, as they call on the whole Christian world to help us to change our situation. It was such a privilege to be recommended to be the youngest author of Kairos Palestine and one of only a few women.

When Zoughbi first asked me to head up the work with women at Wi'am, I did not want to leave the work I was doing with the young people, but I am so glad I did. As I started working on this I realised how much I suffered from a patriarchal society, and in my own home, where men make all the decisions. I am really passionate about changing this.

For all of us in Palestine, the biggest issue we face is the Occupation which dominates every aspect of our lives. But if I were to choose the three other things that most affect women, I would say firstly economic independence — women have such little economic independence in their homes and it restricts their ability to make key decisions.

The difficult economic situation we face means that if women are able to become more economically independent, it will also bring money into the house and we have seen that it transforms their homes, it reduces domestic violence and their children see things differently.

Secondly, education — we need to educate women but especially girls and boys so 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 dates this December, please visit amostrust.org/christmas-2018 or see page 19.





Join us this Christmas in London, Bristol, Cheltenham, Canterbury, Cambridge, Bradford and Manchester.



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

CAMBRIDGE 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

AMOS TRUST events and trips are open to everyone. Join us as we challenge injustice, build hope and create positive change. #ACTIVEISM

amostrust.org/palestine-marathon-2019 Join Team Amos and run the seventh annual Palestine Marathon in Bethlehem, in the shadow of the Wall. The marathon was set up to raise awareness of the fact that you can't run 26 miles in the 'Little Town' without going through a checkpoint.

7 – 18 APRIL 2019 **AMOS HOME REBUILD**

9 - 18 OCTOBER 2019 **A TASTE OF PALESTINE CULINARY TOUR**

Nazareth.

A PILGRIMAGE OF PENANCE, A MARCH OF SOLIDARITY. 3,400 kilometres, 147 days across eleven countries, three seas, mountains, rivers and soul-stirring landscapes from the green fields of Kent to the desert dust 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 injustice, a pilgrimage set out to walk from London to Jerusalem — in penance, 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 journals 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, fable, shrine and iconography radiating from the Holy Land and its three faiths.

Between these paths and themes of Balfour and Zionism, desert spirituality and Jerusalem Syndrome, is a chronicle of serendipity: happenstances hilarious, infuriating and occasionally numinous — or, as pilgrims might say, encounters with the Divine.

WALKING TO JERUSALEM

Blisters, hope and other facts on the ground. JUSTIN BUTCHER

WORDS Justin Butcher рнотодкарну Mark Kensett

MAIN IMAGE 147 DAYS LATER — Justin Butcher on top of the

Mount of Olives overlooking the Old City of Jerusalem after a journey spanning eleven countries, three seas and 3,400 kilometres from London to Jerusalem.

INSET The cover of 'Walking To Jerusalem', Justin's book about his journey, courtesy of Hodder & Stoughton.

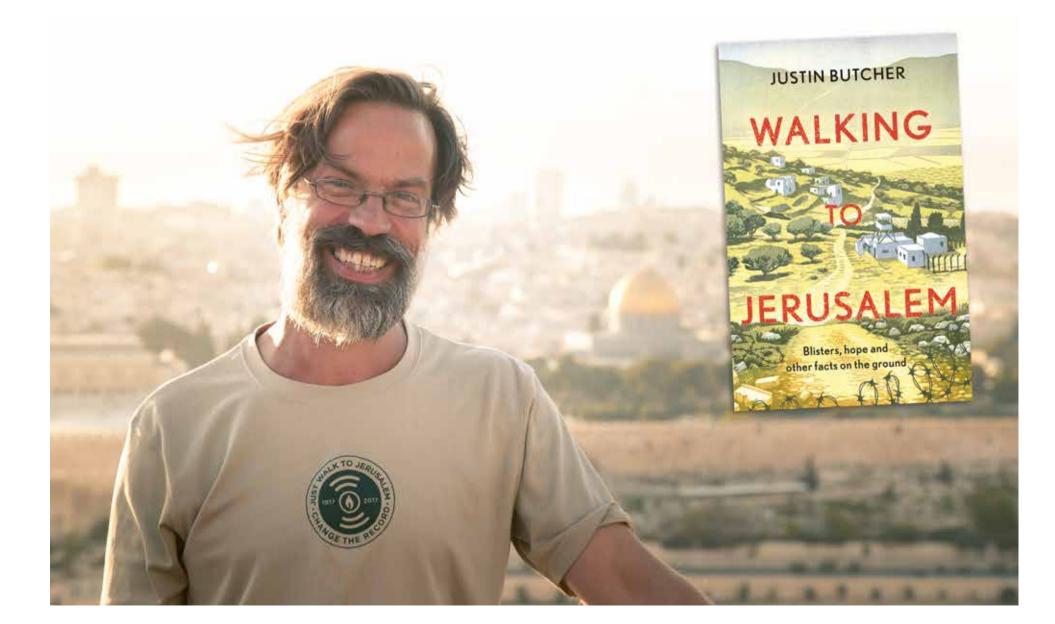
"What's so impressive about Justin Butcher's book is the interweaving of his personal face-to-face experiences in Israel and Palestine against the backdrop of the social and political realities there. This book displays an empathy that is unusual in discussions of that tangled and tragic situation the kind of empathy that will be essential in arriving at any decent solution to it." BRIAN ENO — 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." ROSALIND NASHASHIBI — ARTIST 2017 Turner Prize nominee

"Justin Butcher's crisp and vibrant writing style grabs the reader's hand and leads us on a fascinating and thoughtful tour through history into the heart of the politics of contemporary Palestine." **JEREMY HARDY** — COMEDIAN The News Quiz, 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. How we would do it was 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** — DIRECTOR, Amos Trust

Walking To Jerusalem: Blisters, hope and other facts on the ground is available to buy discounted from amostrust.org/walking-to-jerusalem-book



AMOS LISTINGS 2018/19

3 - 10 DECEMBER 2018 **AMOS AT CHRISTMAS**

amostrust.org/christmas-2018

Join us in December at one of our Amos Christmas carol services in London, Bristol, Cheltenham, Canterbury, Bradford and Manchester.

19 - 24 MARCH 2019 PALESTINE MARATHON

amostrust.org/rebuilding-home-2019 Amos Home Rebuild trips 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

amostrust.org/amos-road-club-2019 The annual Amos Road Club ride is open to all ages and abilities. Next year's ride will take place in the Peak District.

amostrust.org/taste-of-palestine-2019 An amazing 10-day trip based in the kitchens, restaurants, and markets of Jerusalem, Bethlehem, Sebastia and

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 Palestina 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 vour 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 Siraaj 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 chance to visit the Taybeh Brewing Company), before descending down the Wadi alauja 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



AMOS DAY 2019: WITH GILBERTO AGUIRRE & DÁMARIS E. ALBUQUERQUE Join us next September when we'll be joined by Gilberto (above left) and Dámaris (above right) from Nicaragua for a full update on CEPAD's work and the situation on the ground. Photography: © Amos Trust/Clive Horsman

The main checkpoint is open for the arrival of the Latin Patriarchy, but most know they will not go through. All they see are people arriving to celebrate the Jesus of Carols and Christmas cards and presents, born in a manger in Bethlehem, and they forget about the people living in Bethlehem today - it's as if we do not count.

So the Smile Christmas programme is really important. It is for children from Aida and al Assra camps and those living in the shadow of the Wall and checkpoint 300 (the main checkpoint into Bethlehem), but of course, other children come along and we make sure that all the children of the women we work with are there, and others we know who are having a bad time.

...they forget about the people living in Bethlehem today it's as if we don't count.

It's very simple — it lets kids smile and celebrate Christmas. We do all sorts — puppets, theatre shows, games, sports, clowns; our playground is full with children. And of course we give the children presents. We make sure the presents are educational and will help them at school but how could we do Christmas without presents? And of course there is loads of food, (chicken — but no turkey).



WORDS Lucy Talgieh PHOTOGRAPHY Nick Welsh

NOTHING TO SMILE ABOUT The playground in the shadow of the Israeli Seperation Wall at Wi'am in Bethlehem

Our Smile programme also lets women smile before the worst months of the year. In January and February, it is very cold and wet. Houses don't have heating — we just have calor fires and blankets so that is hard with children. And there is no work. There are no tourists. People don't build if the weather is bad and those who go through the checkpoint do building work in Israel — so they have no work. People have spent their money and the woman is blamed and the husband gets angry. So our women's programme is very important in January and February.

WORDS OF HOPE | WINTER 2018 (6)

It is the most important time of year for women to come together and for us to listen to them. To see who is suffering and to hear them talk about their life — to discuss how to react to their husbands and help their childen. In the women's work we help women to make their own small businesses, sewing, embroidering or selling things. The money they earn, they spend on their family and it is very important in winter — but it is never enough."

\mathbf{LUCY} TALGIEH — WI'AM WOMEN'S WORKER

This Christmas our Amos 'Smile' appeal is for WI'AM'S CHRISTMAS SMILE PROGRAMME and for the women's work through the winter. We aim to raise £15,000 for these programmes — and ask that you give generously, to allow these children and families the chance to 'Smile'.

Lucy will be leading our 'WOMEN OF THE WEST BANK' tour in June 2019 which is only for women. She will be at each of our carol services (*please see page 19*), so if you would like to meet her before or after these events, to find out more about the trip, please email katie@amostrust.org



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!



To watch our short film about Wi'am's work in Bethlehem, please visit vimeo.com/amostrust/wiam

SMILE CHRISTMAS APPEAL FOR WI'AM

"Please help us to transform the garbage of anger and hate into the tree of compassion this Christmas." **ZOUGHBI ZOUGHBI** — FOUNDER OF WI'AM RECONCILIATION CENTRE

This Christmas our appeal is for the 'Smile' Christmas Children's Programme and women's work, run by Wi'am Conflict **Resolution Centre.**

Your support will help 300 children and their families, who are living in the shadow the Separation Wall in the Aida and al Assra 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 a puppet show for the children.

PLEASE HELP WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT

I WOULD LIKE TO SUPPORT THE WORK OF AMOS TRUST

 $\hfill \Box$ I / We enclose a one-off contribution of £

I / We would like to give regularly to Amos Trust and have completed the Standing Order form

PLEASE USE THESE FUNDS FOR

Smile Christmas Appeal Amos Trust General Funds

Amos Palestine Amos Communities

NAME

Amos Street Child I / We would like a receipt

☐ I / We would like to receive words of hope E-news

ABOUT YOU

TITLE ADDRESS

TELEPHONE EMAIL

STANDING ORDER FORM

TO THE BANK MANAGER POSTCODE

YOUR BANK

POSTCODE

Please debit my/our account

ACCOUNT NO WITH THE SUM OF £ STARTING ON DD / MM / YYY SORT CODE

EACH MONTH / QUARTER / YEAR (delete as applicable)

And pay this sum to Amos Trust	
ACCOUNT NO. 10939419 SORT CODE 16-20-30	BANK RBS, 10 NORTH ST, GUILDFORD, GUI 4AF
SIGNATURE	DATE DD / MM / YYYY

PAYMENT METHODS

CHEQUES (payable to Amos Trust). We also accept charity vouchers.

CREDIT / DEBIT CARD To donate by card, please visit amostrust.org/give

STANDING ORDER To give a regular gift, please complete the standing order form above or visit amostrust.org/give - or if you would prefer to talk to us about making a donation, please call the office on 020 7588 2638 during normal office hours.

GIFT AID DECLARATION – DONATIONS TO AMOS TRUST

Please GIFT AID this donation and any I make in the future or have made in the past 4 years

I confirm I am a UK taxpayer and understand that if I pay less Income tax and/or Capital Gains Tax then the amount of Gift Aid

claimed on all my donations in that tax year it is my responsibility to pay any difference DATE DD / MM / YYYY SIGNATURE

PLEASE NOTIFY AMOS TRUST IF YOU

ss; no longer pay sufficient ta gains. If you pay Income Tax at the higher or additional rate and want to receive the additional tax relief due to you, you must include all your Gift Aid donations on your Self Assessment tax return or ask HM Revenue and Customs to adjust your tax code

PLEASE RETURN COMPLETED FORM AND DONATION TO:

Amos Trust, St Clement's, 1 St Clement's Court TELEPHONE: +44 (0) 20 7588 2638 London EC4N 7HB, United Kingdom Registered charity no. 1164234

EMAIL: office@amostrust.org WEBSITE: amostrust.org



O LITTLE TOWN OF BETHLEHEM AMOS TRUST CHRISTMAS CARDS 2018



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