

# ANNUAL REPORT 2016 -2017

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### CEO REPORT

Human trafficking continues to ravage society and Abolishion continues its work to break the systems that keep people in sex slavery. The 2016/2017 financial year continued to be a year of growth for Abolishion.

We were pleased to achieve the following in our key areas:

- Raising Awareness
  - Train 141 individuals with our online training course. The course was also released in Polish.
  - o Reach 631 people in our outreach and prevention programs.
- Professional Training
  - o Train 375 professionals from medical, social work and community sectors
- Capacity Building
  - We were able to create a Don't Shut Your Eyes video that was used by the European Freedom Network to reach 595,506 people on social media. The video can be viewed at: <a href="https://youtu.be/tp\_0uTOjv58">https://youtu.be/tp\_0uTOjv58</a>
- Restoration Care
  - We were excited to be able to serve 19 brave survivors as they worked through the process of rebuilding their lives after forced prostitution and commercial exploitation.

Here at Abolishion, we will continue our work towards a world where nobody is sold for the highest bid. Thank you to all of our generous partners and donors who have joined us in the fight against modern day slavery.

Yours sincerely

Leanne Rhodes CEO and Founder - Abolishion

# FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

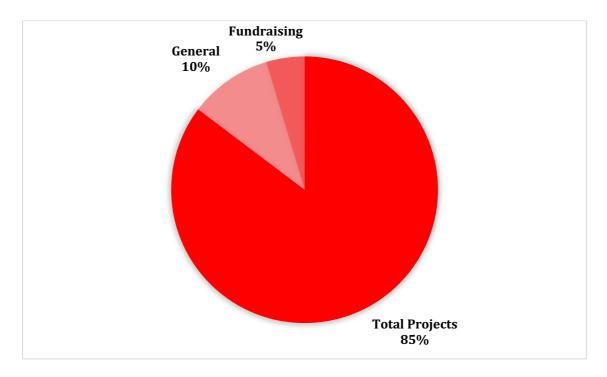
Income	
Donations	
- General	30,362.34
- Raising Awareness	8,437.25
- Restoration Care	21,355.00
- Wages	23,560.49
ROAM	3,790.57
Interest	82.45
Total Income	87,588.10
Expenses	
Raising Awareness	12,946.45
Professional Training	351.92
Capacity Building	13,477.82
Restoration Care	51,418.65
ROAM	6,609.76
Research	3,921.20
Total Projects	88,725.80
General	10,459.21
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Fundraising  Total Admin	4,830.27
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Total Expenses	104,015.28

-16,427.18

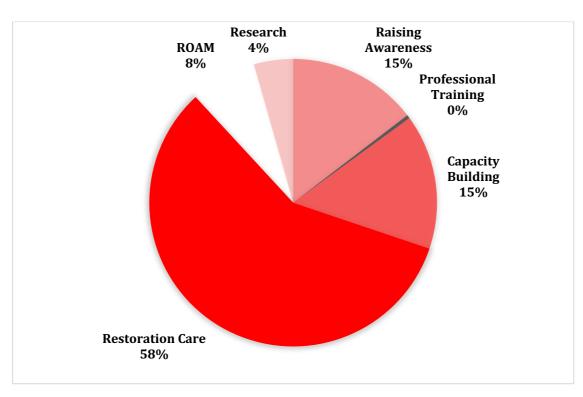
**Total Profit/Loss** 



## TOTAL PROJECTS BREAKDOWN 2016/2017



## PROGRAM EXPENSES BREAKDOWN 2016/2017



#### STORIES FROM THE FIELD

#### THE BEAUTIFUL MIXTURE OF ART AND SOUL



We had an amazing time with Dr. Michelle Sanders doing Art and Soul together with survivors of human trafficking from our Restore Program.

Art and Soul is a program where people explore their thoughts and emotions through the medium of art and specific teaching. The structure of the seminar was very practical. Michelle first started with teaching, where she talked about who we are, how to deal

with our emotions and how to express how we feel in a healthy way. After that, we learnt the basic of painting and then we went straight into it.

It was quite refreshing being able to paint away all the pain, all the suffering, all the darkness from our lives, all those things that we were hiding beneath our mask. We had the chance to express ourselves, to play with colours, to feel the joy of light instead of the shades of darkness. The girls had the possibility to create something new, a new start, a fresh beginning. They could dream again, they could take back control even if it started with the control of a brush on a canvas. One brush, one canvas, infinite possibilities!

All the painting created a safe place for girls to open up, to reveal the pain from their souls, to express how they feel inside, how they see themselves. Sometimes it was ugly and dark and scary. But the exposure, this courageous revealing of self through art, was the first step towards healing and restoration.

Here are some testimonies from the girls

- "I like it. I stopped thinking about my problems. I don't want to go home. It helped me. It took away my tiredness."
- "I've never painted before and now I like to paint."
- "It helped me to calm down a bit."
- "It helped me understand the feelings of shame and how to react when I'm being hurt by someone."
- "I received hope for the future during the painting. This helped me to discover my identity.

So what did we do at Art and Soul? We coloured our soul!

#### STREET THEATRE IN ATHENS



In September the Abolishion team joined with Concordia University to bring awareness of human trafficking to Athens, Greece through the medium of street theatre. Abolishion spent 10 days in Greece with Concordia's Around The World team, team of 39 students and professors. Our objective was to create a street theatre performance that would communicate the realities of human trafficking, commonly

overlooked in this tourist destination. "Many people assume that prostitutes choose to be working in that field. This is not the case. A large percentage of people who are working in this field are being forced and have been trafficked. We hope this drama helps people to see that." said Abolishion's CEO, Leanne Rhodes.

The drama, created by Professor Tony Vezner, involved women in full roman dress wearing masks, dancing about. They were then joined by men who were dancing alongside them treating them like sex objects. The mean offered the women money and at that moment the women removed their masks to show bruises and beaten faces. At this point signs were held up saying, "Look past the mask. Human trafficking happens all around you."

The reaction of the crowd at this critical moment in the drama was one of shock. One moment people had been clapping along and cheering and in the next moment they were faced with the reality of human trafficking. The smiles turned to shock and for some even to tears as they were confronted with this message.

Many conversations were had onlookers including women who knew this story far too intimately. One man told us that when he sees prostitutes that they want to be there and are always smiling. He started to see things differently when we explained that they are forced and threatened. If they don't smile and do what they are told there will be consequences.

Overall the street drama impacted many and spread awareness about the harsh reality of human trafficking in a place where it commonly occurs.

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#### CYBERCRIME AND SEXTORTION



Both our CEO, Leanne Rhodes, and our Prevention and Awareness Director, Ioana Humelnicu were privileged to present at Agora University's 6th Agora International Administration Conference in December.

Leanne spoke on research she has been doing on the links between Human Trafficking and Cybercrime, looking at

online activity both on the internet and the dark web. The dark web is an area often plagued by traffickers as it near guarantees anonymity. The research looked at trends and tools currently available to police to gather evidence and bring a quicker response time in the rescue of victims.

Ioana spoke on the dangers of sexting (sending sexual images by text) and how it can easily turn into sextortion, where victims are blackmailed into providing more sexual images, favours or services to the offender. Ioana made a number of recommendations about how to stay safe on the internet. Both papers will be published in Agora's International Journal of Administration Sciences in the coming months.

#### BE SAFE IN POLAND



Leanne was privileged to visit Poland this month thanks to the invitation from Slawek Jagiela and Stephen Wyndham from the 700 Miast program. Leanne was invited to share with these up and coming church leaders on how human trafficking happens in Poland and how they can be involved in fighting it.

Following the conference, Leanne visited secondary schools in villages around Poland and spoke on the dangers of human trafficking, particularly on social media. Leanne warned the students of the dangers of sexting, the practice sending sexually proactive images online, common amongst teenagers. This resonated with many of the students who began looking at one another awkwardly at this point.

Students were given Abolishion's new webcam stickers to place over their webcams when not in use. "Once someone has access to your computer via a virus or through clicking on a fake email, they are able to access your webcam and take photos whenever they like as long as your computer is on. Our simple webcam sticker can stop this." says Leanne Rhodes.

Traffickers are targeting students more and more online. Our hope is that our 'Be Safe on Social Media' school program will help prevent students from falling victim to their tricks.

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