

Heartwings NGO

CHANGE IS POSSIBLE - NEWSLETTER 2/2020



Boom in the Swiss red-light district!

Since June 8, «prostitution with physical contact» is allowed again in our country. This has triggered a real boom because in all EU neighboring countries stricter corona bans were in force. An above-average number of victims of forced and poverty prostitution were immediately dragged into the liberal Switzerland by plane, bus, train or car. They come here as seemingly «self-determined, legal sex workers» from Europe, sometimes illegally from Southeast Asia, West Africa and Latin America. Conspicuously many blood-young and underaged women are to be found. These days, the women are transported by vehicles instead of plane in order to illegally circumvent the 10-day quarantine.

A doorman and human trafficker tells us in tears: «I can hardly sleep at night. I am haunted by nightmares of all the young girls, how they are compelled in their home countries with brute force and manipulation.»

For the vulnerable victims of poverty prostitution, the working conditions here are untenable: women tell us that many clients disregard any protection concept or distance rules in a contemptuous manner while sex without a condom is still harmless. Due to the high number of women prostitutes, the pressure of competition is higher than ever. At lowest prices the women have to satisfy bizarre wishes of punters. Room rents remain horrendously high, averaging around CHF 100 per night for shabby small rooms. Anyone who does not pay immediately is kicked out. Many literally run out of air, struggling to survive and breathe. Homelessness is increasing, and so is violence among the various clans. How sad that our rich Switzerland is once again becoming a European Eldorado for greedy human traffickers, corrupt money launderers and solvent punters. «The ruble is rolling. Anything is done for money here!»

God gives the lonely a home, the prisoners freedom and happiness!

It is not surprising that in recent months we have been advising many women who are determined to leave prostitution permanently. But when it comes to providing new housing and work opportunities for women who have decided to leave, our current possibilities are still very limited. Heartwings does not have any houses/apartments and our office space in the Zurich red-light district is already running at the limit. As Heartwings Association we have since the very start the vision of our own safe house, a place where everything is under one roof. A centrally located, multi-storey building for the broken, abused and hopeless. The current depressing situation makes women want this special place even more than ever. Together with the women we take you into our vision. Be inspired, become a carrier of this vision and be a part of it with the possibilities you have.

♡ HIS HOME ♡



We are increasingly receiving requests for volunteer office work and internships, which we unfortunately have to put on hold at the moment. For this we would need more office space.

Our office area should be made up of different rooms. To avoid overlapping of administration work and consultations.



«IS THERE A POSSIBILITY TO PAINT AND BE CREATIVE TOGETHER? I'VE HEARD THAT IT HELPS TO EXPRESS FEELINGS.»

The art of Dorothée Widmer touches every visitor in our office. The label «Artworks for Freedom» should become even more true to its name. We would like to help the drop-outs to restore their perception of their own feelings and encourage reflection of emotions/situations.



«THIS BLAZER GOOD FOR ME — ME NOT STAYING FOREVER AT LANGSTRASSE — AS BUSINESSWOMAN IN FUTURE I NEED MANY ELEGANT CLOTHES.»

Our ladies lounge boutique with its clothes, decorative items, accessories and cosmetics is a key to the heart of the women. Whether they are still in prostitution or already in the process of quitting - the many clothes they usually take are not just a necessity, but a wonderful contrast to their rocky day-to-day life. Our boutique is soon bursting at the seams despite the frequent visits. But for the many drop-outs and visitors we need more space and an even wider range of articles.



«THIS PLACE IS DIFFERENT. THERE IS GREAT AMBIENCE, GOOD ATMOSPHERE, AND BEST COFFEE - THIS COFFEE MACHINE ALSO HAVE TO BUY.»

Nowadays, when women come into our office for a coffee, they react strongly to the calming music, they don't even need to talk about their problems, they just enjoy the peace and quietness. Relaxed and changed they leave our office.

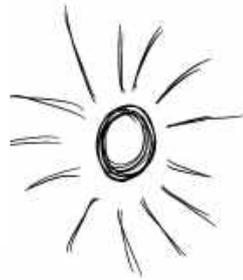
A place like this «coffee for the heart» should be open and easily accessible at any time of the day and night. A peaceful spot where women can relax and be safe.



In this house, people should receive all-round help, protection, social accompaniment and reintegration into regular work processes 24/7. Every evening fellowship at the table and events with lots of music, a climate is to be created in which an incentive for positive life changes can grow through encouraging examples. The hardship of these days makes us more than ever aware of the importance of a safe home for the women. Pushed around for years as nomads, they long for a familiar place they can call home.

«THIS PLACE WOULD REMAIN MY HOME FOREVER - EVEN IF I HAD ALREADY LONG BEEN STANDING ON MY OWN TWO FEET.»

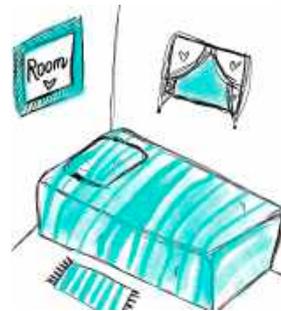
Perhaps the question now arises where the finances and human resources in this corona crisis should come from? Good to know that all the treasures of this world belong to God and that He provides and guides us all. Be the change!



«IT'S SO DARK IN HERE, IN MY ROOM - I TAPED RUBBISH BAG TO WINDOW TO STOP EVERYONE FROM LOOKING IN. I WANT ROOM WITH REAL CURTAIN.»

There should be many rooms in our house - space for every drop-out. Beautifully furnished rooms should be the retreat for the women. These rooms are a safe haven and stable during the turbulent phase of the exit.

The housing situation of women in the milieu is usually catastrophic. Often a dozen women share a restroom. Cooking facilities are limited, if at all available. No more than a bed and a wardrobe are provided for the women. In order to keep the offer attractive for the punters, most of the women are moved to another place after a short time.



«I DO CLEANING, DO EVERYTHING! BUT I STUPID, NO SCHOOL FINISHED - NOBODY WANTS ME. BUT YOU SAY I'M GOOD - CAN I WORK HERE?»

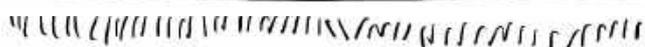
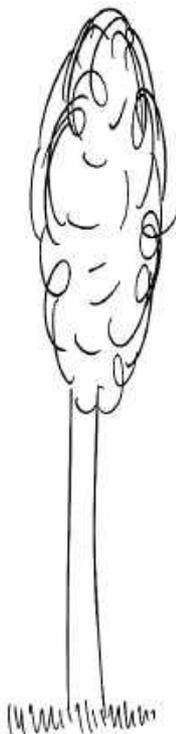
Anyone who does not have an excellent curriculum vitae, does not speak our language and is mentally unstable will fall through all the levels of the labour market. The women often ask for an employment opportunity in our association. We would like to offer such jobs and employment opportunities to make it easier for them to enter the working world at a later stage. We already work with willing employers and are always looking for them.



«MY DOG IS A BIT STUPID. HE NEEDS SO MUCH HELP. BUT I THINK HE HELPS ME TOO.»

Many women from the milieu experienced abuse and violence in their childhood. Ended up in prostitution at an early age - were robbed of their childhood.

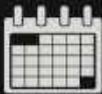
A place of peace with animals, a garden and balcony can revive the childlike light-heartedness in them. An important component in the reflecting and healing process.



A WARM INVITATION TO THE VERNISSAGE OF DOROTHÉE WIDMER — ARTWORKS FOR FREEDOM !



50% OF THE PROCEEDS OF THE PICTURES WILL BE USED TO FIGHT AGAINST HUMAN TRAFFICKING!



Saturday, 3rd of October 2020, 2pm-9pm / Sunday, 4th of October, 2pm-7pm

Heartwings NGO, Langstrasse 62, 8004 Zürich

Corona-Info: Apéro not possible - masks & disinfectant are provided



Brand-marked! In the past, slaves in plantations were branded like cattle to mark them for their owner. This practice is still often used today by pimps and loverboys. They make possession stamps as tattoos clearly visible on the bodies of their sex slaves. Years later, such horror tattoos still weigh heavily on drop-outs, because every time they look in the mirror, they are reminded of their pimp or tormentor. This summer, Heartwings financed the makeover of such a stamp tattoo. Where the tattoo used to remind of the past, beautiful flowers are now visible.



Book recommendation, new released! The courageous journalist Aline Wüst doesn't mince her words. She mercilessly takes the reader into the abyss of the Swiss red-light milieu. For her authentic research she looked behind the glamorous facade: Sat in a brothel many evenings, froze on the street, collected money from a punter and travelled with a Bulgarian woman to her home village. «Piff-Paff-Puff. Prostitution in Switzerland» is an impressive reportage in which both prostitutes and pimps, brothel managers, lawyers, police officers, doctors and psychologists have their say. Aline Wüst has been a reporter for "Sonntags Blick" since 2017 and writes about social topics.

Thank you for your open eyes and informing others, your solidarity with Heartwings and above all we thank you for your financial support.

Together we move forward - together we experience change, since CHANGE IS POSSIBLE!

Donation account details

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Contact

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