

Heartwings NGO

CHANGE IS POSSIBLE - NEWSLETTER 2/2021



Kaya is an extraordinary woman. She says things like: "Greta Thunberg just sat on the side of the road and people all over the world started to stand up to fight climate change. - why shouldn't something like this work for women in prostitution? Why shouldn't people stand up for change in this topic too?"

that's how life took its course. get up, make yourself pretty, spread your legs

Kaya is 19 years old and grows up in a prefabricated housing estate. "Where others avoid moving in." She experiences exclusion and her mother abandons her when she is five years old. "She traded me for drugs and men." But there are also fond memories of her childhood - pooling money with her friends and using it to buy a bag of potato chips for one euro, for example. The weekends with her mother are nice when she is sober, which she usually is not. "Violence", Kaya says, "was normal in my childhood."

In a desperate situation she gets to know a young man on a dating platform. He drives up in a white Audi, is courteous, good-looking and gives her what she longs for: safety, security and love.

Today she knows that she was manipulated. "It was as if he had made an assault on me. Everything was planned in detail." The supposed friend was a loverboy, a pimp. After a short time Kaya has to work as a prostitute for him. She said, "He promised to help me get a job. I didn't realize it was prostitution and ran into an open knife."

He takes all her money, pressures her and hits her. Kaya continues to prostitute herself because she wants to be loved - and because she loves him.

It was evening. My very first customer came. An old man with a scarred face, around 50 years old. I put up with it. Later I was told that he takes every new woman.

Corona was her luck, Kaya says today. As the brothels and finally also the hotels in Germany closed, she came to Switzerland. Here a bartender in a brothel told her that a man who loves a woman would never let her be a prostitute. Kaya returns to her father and stepmother. She breaks off contact with the loverboy.

But then goes back to Switzerland after a brief period of time. She wants to continue working independently as a prostitute. She experiences boundary violations, violence and loneliness. During this time, Kaya also works in private apartments. She realizes that she has no rights. A telephone operator arranges client appointments for her, and the apartment operators determine the practices. She feels like an object that simply has to do as she is told.

I don't like people touching my breasts. So I said to a customer, "Don't touch my breasts!" I told him three times. He didn't stop, so I slapped his hands. That's when he tried to hit me. The men in the brothel don't care about me. You're like a product. It's the dirtiest thing you can imagine. There are so many things, so many disgusting things

She has not yet reported her loverboy because she promised him so. She also said, "if someone had come to me in the brothel, I would have said I was doing it by choice. Because I thought he loved me. But it wasn't like that. This is how many women in prostitution feel", she said. "These women are not stupid. They do it out of love. These are the most powerful women ever. People can tell me whatever they want."

In prostitution your body is taken from you. And the loverboys do everything they can to take your soul as well. I can hardly let a man come close to me. That is the most valuable thing that has been taken from me. I was disgusted by my own body because of the sex with the men - sometimes even today."

experiences such a thing. She also says, "I don't want women in prostitution to be mocked by other people."

Do you want to read Kaya's complete story in her own words? Scan the QR code or go to our website www.heartwings.ch and dive into the tough but honest story of our brave heroine!

At some point, Kaya can't take it anymore. She buys pills and doesn't want to live any longer. Before she takes the tablets, she writes to charitable organizations. Fortunately, Kaya wakes up again. Gets help. First from a state organization, which no longer can help her. Kaya finds her way to Heartwings. She fights and does not give up, wants to start a life here in Switzerland. Heartwings supports her in this. Kaya makes it - in these days she starts her educational training.

"I couldn't determine my times, prices, or services. For example, they wrote that I offer anal intercourse, which was not true. There was no one in the apartment who would have paid attention. They would have not even itched if I had been stabbed by a john. There was no one in the apartment who would have paid attention. They wouldn't even care if I had been stabbed by a john."

Her wish for the society: "Stop representing any opinions that you have read or heard somewhere. Get your own view. The milieu is a world that does not see the light of the day. Don't judge prostitutes. Don't judge and say, "These women are doing this by choice and independently." This is not the way it is. It's time to stop spreading rumors. Respect us! Kaya wants to fight so that pimping is no longer tolerated. That these women receive respect and support from the police and she wants every loverboy to imagine how it would feel if his wife, his mother, his sister, his daughter or cousin

I wanted to take a day off, but I wasn't allowed to. Am I an animal or an object?"





"Be a voice for all the weak women out there", Kaya has written as her wish on our dream wall. On the topic "I have a dream" we painted an entire wall in our office with blackboard paint. Every woman who enters our office can write her life's dream on the wall. The wall magically attracts the female visitors. They also want to dig up their dreams, put them into words and immortalize them as memories with us. Every time the harsh reality of the street threatens to steal dreams away, they come back to us making sure that their dream is still there despite everything. Kaya's dream is about to come true right now. This is the first time she is telling her story publicly (in this newsletter). She stands up and represents all women in prostitution. Bravely raises her voice and exposes the hidden machinations of the milieu.

I can't believe it. A year ago I came to your office to get clothes for the first time. Now I live in a house far away from Langstrasse. Every day there are new cleaning customers. I'm now a cleaning specialist. I was allowed to train a woman who was new. I wish she will make it too. - Cassandra employed at Heartwings as a cleaning specialist.



💬 I've been sleeping on chairs in a bar for three days. Do you have a place I can go? I do everything! - Anna

💬 Please help me! My children at home have no food. I don't make money on the street, they are starving. Do you have work for me? - Mia

💬 I work without permit as a sex worker. So I earn at least a little bit. I have no ID, no permit and no food. Today I was thrown out of the room because I can't pay. Where can I sleep today! Do you have a house? Do you have a job for me? - Marc

💬 I have a purulent cyst in my genital area. Do you have painkillers? I have to go back to work on the street. - Lea

Since publishing the last newsletter, we have been able to hire more women as cleaning specialists. It has spread like wildfire in the milieu that we have created jobs for these women, obtained permits and organized apartments.

"I have observed that the women who work at Heartwings are changing. They even help me and that is not normal on the street. We used to be competitors on the streets."

The situation in the milieu is precarious. There are hardly any clients who pay for sex - and no work for the women. No work means no money. No money means being thrown out of the overpriced room and no money to feed the children. The few emergency sleeping places that are still open despite the Corona situation are only accessible to people with a valid right of residence in Switzerland. All others become homeless and sleep on the street.

As Heartwings, we are busy as never before. It means enduring hardship and helping where we can: with Migros vouchers for food, warm clothes and blankets for the night on the street, setting up the cleaning business to offer even more job opportunities and follow-up solutions for more women.



The pain of sexual violence among women is everywhere palpable and present. A life of constant stress breaks their hearts, bodies, souls and minds. When the women reach out to us; they are drained, parched, hurt and traumatized. Like dying, withered leaves in autumn. But when salvation and freedom appear sincerely - suddenly new life sap flows! Old and new dreams germinate. Hope awakens their faith and a love never experienced before brings back strength, vision, trust and life in their veins. Incredible miracles suddenly become visible in detail. Transformation happens unexpectedly throughout the tree, each withered leaf experiences healing, change and life in its own way.

- Dorothée, artist

You are cordially invited
to the vernissage of
Dorothee Widmer!



50% VOM ERLÖS DER BILDER UND KUNSTKARTEN WERDEN ZUM KAMPF GEGEN MENSCHENHANDEL EINGESETZT!

 **Samstag, 2. Oktober 2021, 14:00-21:00 / Sonntag, 3. Oktober, 14:00-19:00**
Heartwings Verein, Langstrasse 62, 8004 Zürich



The exit from slavery costs a lot of money. Money that we would gladly invest in these valuable people! Why? Unfortunately, women leaving slavery do not receive any state support in Switzerland, whereas the Nordic model provides such support, e.g. in Sweden, it already exists since 20 years.

A lonely woman, on the nursing ward at my work, asked me to hold her hands for a moment in comfort. I did so gladly, whispering a prayer softly. A few days later, she boldly asked me, "Please hold my hands again and pray out loud this time, because I understood everything last time! For years I had closed myself off to prayer for various reasons! But your example has inspired me to start again!" Lilly, a hope-giving dropout

We jump into this gap and help unbureaucratically! Here are some current examples:

→ Heartwings rents an apartment for two former prostitutes who have found work with us. → We pay fair wages in the cleaning business incl. legal taxes. → Another young woman is starting her vocational training. We pay for rent, public transport and health insurance. → A woman who cleans reliably for us would have gone to jail because of a controversial fine! We help with the payment and mediate with authorities. → We raised money to let a former prostitute visit her family after years. → Purchase Migros vouchers so the women on the streets do not go hungry. → Book emergency rooms in hotels in case of acute danger. → Lunch for our cleaning staff. → Arranging doctor and dentist appointments.

Even this newsletter was wrapped by women for a good wage. And still many more women are waiting to get out....

Thank you for helping us so that we can continue to help! Thank you that with your and God's help, new miracles are possible! Thank you for hearing the cry and responding so that change becomes possible.

Account details for donations

Raiffeisen Schweiz Genossenschaft,
CH-9001 St. Gallen / PC Bank 90-602-2
IBAN CH68 8080 8008 7881 2642 1
In favor of: Heartwings Verein - 8004 Zürich

Online donations: www.heartwings.ch

Donations are tax deductible in Switzerland.

TWINT donation

Scan the QR-
Code with your
TWINT-APP
(without thank-
you note)



Contact details

Heartwings Verein Zürich,
Langstrasse 62, CH-8004 Zürich
www.heartwings.ch
info@heartwings.ch