

HOME OF HOPE NEWSLETTER

ADVOCATING FOR WOMEN RIGHTS

Message from The Founder

With a thankful heart I give all praise and glory to The Almighty God who has been tremendously generous in my life. My heart is pumping and excited to share the amazing news that I (along with other two partners) have finally founded and registered a Non-Profit Organization called SURVIVOR EXIT FOUNDATION. It has always been my deepest heart desire to share my story with people in raising

awareness on human trafficking, sex slavery and prostitution. I am a SURVIVOR of such exploitation and it is not easy to constantly recall all those bitter memories

while sharing my story but, I would rather shed some tears and be part of the move that will abolish such disgrace on today's women for we are humans too. Many people know me from my book EXIT summarized in the right hand

column which entails the day to day struggle women go through in this life just trying to survive and make ends meet and this is not just a story but real life events I went through. "Wait Grizelda, sex work is a choice", NO NO NO!!!!!! Prostitution is not WORK but exploitation, manifestation of male entitlement and violent sexual access neither is it a choice. It is a lender of last resort to a girl trying to stay

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alive in a world that is evoked by several push factors which include poverty, gender, ethnic, racial discrimination, violence, civil unrest, armed

unrest and natural disasters just but to mention a few. Survivor Exit Foundation was formed for a time such as now.

- *Grizelda Grootboom*

EXIT!

Grizelda Grootboom moves to Johannesburg at the age of 18 in an attempt to start a new life, but instead she is trafficked on arrival in Yeoville, tied in a room for two weeks and forced to work as a sex slave. What follows is a life of living hand-to-mouth, from one street corner to another, begin pimped, being taught how to strip, acquiring and using a variety of drugs to sustain herself. Her prostitution gains momentum in city strip clubs and a series of tragedies become her existence. EXIT! Is the story of her life of prostitution and her ultimate escape from it all.

OUR VISION IS TO ERADICATE PUSH & PULL FACTORS TO HUMAN TRAFFICKING, PROSTITUTION AND SEX SLAVERY

Raising Awareness, Fight for Criminalization and Giving Hope to Survivors

RAISING AWARENESS

At survivor exit we do not believe that human trafficking, prostitution and sex slavery can be eradicated overnight as those are fantasies of individuals who have never experienced the exploitations of human trafficking, prostitution and sex slavery. We understand that this is a complex syndicate by the rich at the expense of the poor. Our first approach to these matters is educating the youths on how real and cruel are brothel owners and pimps who are now called businessmen. If people are aware of networks such it will make it easy for them not to fall prey to this syndicate and they will be able to identify and expose such operations. Some girls from poor background get caught into the this network without knowing the consequences of being a victim as they are lied to and promised a nice life hence awareness is of vital importance. We seek to educate youths in communities, schools, universities and other institutions. There is nothing that inspires and have an impact like hearing it from the horse's mouth hence our Founder Ms. Grizelda Grootboom who has a firsthand experience of this exploitation takes time and effort in this area.

FIGHT FOR CRIMINALIZATION

Eradicating push factors alone is not enough as some victims of human trafficking, prostitution and sex slavery are due to pull factors. These pull factors include demand for prostitutes and cheap labour which has grown so big to the extent of generating **\$90 billion** in profit at the exploitation of other humans (ILO 2014). At Survivor Exit Foundation we fight for abolishment and criminalization of prostitution since in our eyes and the eyes of the victims prostitution is neither work nor a choice as aforementioned by our founder. We fight to see criminalization on all pull factors of prostitution as these are the ones creating a demand for exploitation of women and girls all over the world. We thrive to see a constitution that will make buying of sex a legal offense, by paying for sex a demand is created and more girls and women across the world fall victim of such actions. We are saying to all men out there please stop buying sex because that is an exploitation of women and by so doing you will be promoting sex slavery, human trafficking and prostitution. Together we can save families that are being destroyed daily.

GIVING HOPE TO SURVIVORS

Raising awareness and criminalization are half of the story, people may be aware of the human trafficking, prostitution and sex slavery however there are those who are already victims of these exploitations. Survivor Exit Foundation is established to give support to victims of human trafficking, prostitution and sex slavery we call them sisters or survivors, for together as women we strengthen each other to be established outside of the exploitation industry. For this reason our organization is Called Survivor Exit for we assist Survivors who have exited the exploitation and those who are trying to exit as well. Many of the Survivors are mainly affected by lack of financial sources to support themselves as well as their families. Through the contribution of our donors we will be able to start projects that will see more and more Survivors off the streets. These projects are detailed in our memorandum available upon request to the funders who are willing to partake in this move. Our founder has seen it all and understands how it feels being the victim of this exploitation and is passionate to its abolishment.

ABOUT MS. GRIZELDA GROOTBOOM

Like many women on the planet, human rights activist, motivational speaker, author and founder of SURVIVOR EXIT FOUNDATION Ms. Grizelda Grootboom has suffered gender abuse, sex exploitation, forced drug abuse and human trafficking which she survived amongst other things. Is it charisma and positive thinking? Decisiveness? Is it all about the situation? Is it meant only for the chosen few who survive the cruelty women in this modern day face? Or, is there a different story? With over three decades infested with child abuse, human trafficking, prostitution, drug abuse and most importantly, real-life survival of it all. Today Grizelda appreciates and shares with young girls and women around the world from South African cities, India, Britain and USA the importance of women rights and criminalization of sex work which ignites the international pandemic of human trafficking. Grizelda, has seen it all and lived the life of being oppressed as woman from a young age of six and for the love of humanity and most importantly women she now uses her experiences in raising awareness regarding sex slavery, drug abuse and human trafficking amongst other hot issues confronting today's women. Grizelda's fusion of real-life story and her conversational techniques connect with today's women at an intimate, intense and individual level aspiring them to take it upon themselves to fight for women rights. Without any educational background, Grizelda has served on several occasions across the globe regarding women rights, drug abuse, human trafficking and criminalization of sex work with governmental bodies and non-profit organizations namely Tiny Hands, Embrace Dignity, Me CAT and several churches just to mention a few. She is the author of her true-life story, EXIT, the previously nominated SALA best literacy book of 2016 and recently nominated 2017 book of the year in the Southern African region. Her gratefulness towards God empowers her to share her lifetime testimony detailed in EXIT to empower young girls and bring to light issues women are facing. It is her dream to make sure women rights are recognized and no girl child gets exposed to sex slavery, prostitution, drug abuse and human trafficking. In the effort to raise awareness Grizelda has featured on a number of media platforms from newspapers, magazines, radio talks, TV shows and the United Nations General Assembly.

FOUNDATION DETAILS

SURVIVOR EXIT FOUNDATION (NPO)

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