



amos  trust

ON HER TERMS

—

GIVING GIRLS WHO HAVE NEVER HAD
A FIRST CHANCE, A SECOND

AN AMOS TRUST PROJECT



ON HER TERMS

MOST GIRLS who come onto the streets have fled domestic abuse, neglect, forced marriage (often as young as 11 or 12), and extreme poverty.

On the streets they experience far higher levels of abuse. They are preyed upon and quickly find themselves trapped in abusive relationships with older boyfriends or in commercial sex work, abusing alcohol and drugs.

Instead of supporting these girls and recognising the choices they have had to make, they are looked down on, and made to feel ashamed for the abuse that others have perpetrated against them. They learn not to trust anyone, not to believe in themselves and that there is no way out for them.

People naturally want to rescue girls from this situation – yet this proves impossible. The girls have been so battered by experiences, that they rebel against this, push workers to the extremes, or run back to the streets.

We estimate that at every stage it is 8-times harder working with girls than with boys – and therefore many projects give up trying. However we didn't believe that was good enough.

We have been pioneering new ways forward with our partners in INDIA, SOUTH AFRICA and TANZANIA.



“ We aren't begging for this, or asking for this as a favour. It is our human right.”

USHA

KARUNALAYA — our partner in India, work to ensure that the legal rights of street children, pavement dwellers and the impoverished local communities are realised.

PHOTOGRAPH:
Usha, 19 — from Karunalaya's girls' programme.





Rebuilding and reconnecting their emotions that have long been suppressed and shattered becomes the core of our work so these girls move towards making choices that provide hope for their future, no matter how little this hope may be.”



One of the greatest challenges of working with girls and young women on the streets is that their notion of fear has been so compromised and watered-down by their experiences, that it leads them to make destructive life choices.”

WE ARE LEARNING THAT:

- Breakthroughs require long-term commitment Progress is slow and uneven, it can take months before a girl begins to open up and they often will sabotage their own progress as they struggle to believe in themselves and the opportunities before them.
- Programmes have to be shaped On Her Terms - the girls have to have direct input in identifying the activities, locations and times which are of value to them.
- It is the small steps that matter, as they start to see their strength and their ability to make choices that affect their lives.
- The relationship with the project worker is key in building trust.
- The workers are vulnerable, friends and families do not understand why they do this work and projects are often very fragile.

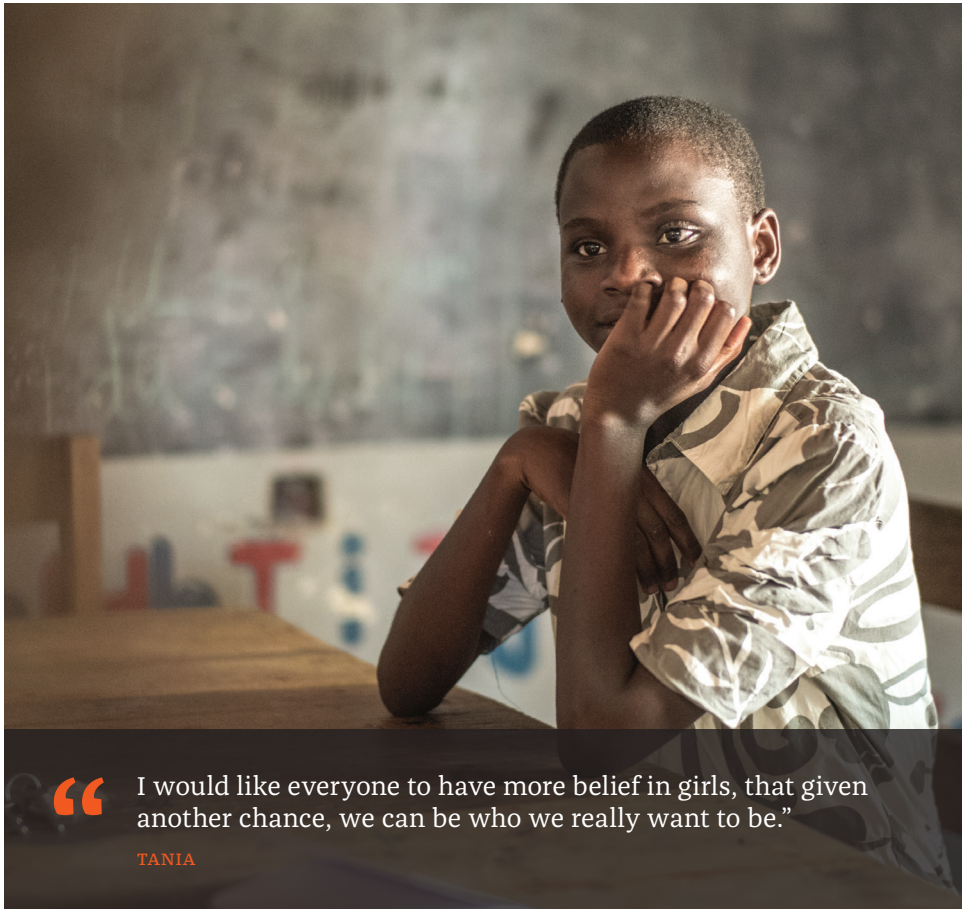
CREATING CHANGE:

We believe it is time to share this learning. We are bringing frontline workers from 8 projects together so that:

- they can improve their practice and be more effective in reaching girls and young women;
- they can recognise their skill base, develop their self confidence and create on-going peer support;
- they can share their learning with new projects who are keen to develop programmes.

We believe it is time to widen support for these projects:

- by telling their stories, so people can understand why girls such as these fall through the gaps;
- by challenging those who say it is too hard and takes too long;
- by inspiring people to create new ways to change how these girls are seen, treated and judged.



“ I would like everyone to have more belief in girls, that given another chance, we can be who we really want to be.”

TANIA

CHEKA SANA TANZANIA — offer therapeutic-based approaches supporting children’s safety and protection, which respects their opinions and enables them to flourish.

PHOTOGRAPH:
Tania, a teenage girl in her classroom — Mwanza, Tanzania.



JOIN US...

Unless we radically change the situation for these young women, they will never make the progress we long to see.

We need to learn from those projects who are transforming their lives – and encourage people to know that they can create real change.

YOU CAN BE INVOLVED IN ‘ON HER TERMS’:

- GIVE TO THE CAMPAIGN
Help fund these remarkable projects. To make your donation, please visit amostrust.org/on-her-terms
- TELL THEIR STORY
Host an event – talk with your friends and networks about why it matters to you. Work with us to develop new approaches that will challenge the way people see these girls.
- STAY IN TOUCH
Sign up to our monthly ‘On Her Terms’ E-news and consider whether you would like to visit one of our partner projects – visit amostrust.org/on-her-terms





AMOS TRUST is a small, creative human rights organisation that has been working with children on the streets for more than 25 years. We seek to change the way these children are treated, to build hope and to journey with them as they transform their lives.



If a girl is on the street for more than a week, the likelihood is she will never be able to leave.”

JAMEELA

PHOTOGRAPH:
A young woman from a fishing community —
Chennai, India.