

Tina from Westafrica, 25 years

- When she was a child, she suffered a lot of violence. The father was addicted to alcohol and without reason hit wife and children. Very often there was not enough food or money for school
- When she was 14 she ran away from home. She landed up in the hands of traffickers, who brought her to Europe
- During the journey she suffered repeated sexual violence, which she can barely remember
- In Germany, she changed often caretakers (child protection office, emergency institutions, foster parents...)
- One day the police went to her accommodation to deport her. She had a break down and ended up in a psychiatric clinic.
- After a few years, she obtained a residence permit for humanitarian reason. She lives alone and works now as an part-time housecleaner. She speaks fluent German but she is still illiterate
- She suffers under constant headaches and mood swings, although she has improved along the years.

Story of L.S.

- L.S. was born 1989 in Eritrea. As many other Eritreans also her family migrated to Ethiopia. She grew up together with her sisters and brothers in a small town in Ethiopia. In 1998 the whole family of L.S. died during the deportation. She survived alone.
- After the loss of her family, she stayed with some neighbors, who encouraged her at the age of 16 to leave the country, because of the situation of Eritreans in Ethiopia.
- L.S. fled together with other Eritreans to Khartoum, the capital of Sudan, where she stayed several months. Her memories of the time in war-torn Sudan are horrifying. As an Eritrean refugee and Christian in a Muslim country she lived with constant fear. Eritrean women tried to hide their origin wearing a burka. However, still happened that refugees were identified and were stabbed to death on the market. When she speaks or hears about Sudan today L.S. reacts shocked, anxious and panicking
- Together with other refugees L.S. went to Libya which was controlled by criminals and thieves. A boat should bring all the refugees from the coast of Libya to Italy. Previously they took all her money. All refugees were forced to go in houses and take their clothes off so that they could find all the hidden money. After a long ride on a raft boat (inflatable boat) L.S. arrived in Italy with nothing. Still today she is very afraid of water and when she sees the news of refugees crossing the Mediterranean on Television she cannot sleep, since her memory comes back.
- The police brought all refugees to Sicily. They stayed in an asylum centre. After a few days they were let out. She reached with other refugees Rome.
- In Rome L.S. was offered a job to take care of an elderly woman and do the house chores without having a day off. She had to work 10 to 12 hours per day, was payed a few hundred euros per month, she was often treated in a much undignified way and she was kept like a slave.
- Someone organized for her to leave Italy and flee to Denmark, where other Eritreans would take care of her. Since she had no documents, did not speak any Italian and only a little English, accepted the offering of this person, who turned out to be a criminal .
- However, in Germany the smuggler took her savings and left her alone. The police took her to the detention center, where our organization could rescue her.
- When she was taken to the detention center she just broke down. Since then, she has often flash backs and sometimes panic attacks. She has done a short psychotherapy, and she is still accompanied from a trauma counsellor. Sometimes she tends to dissociate and speaks like a child. Her mood changes very suddenly and at times without any concrete cause. She suffers from headaches and is often exhausted, even if medical check-up have shown no physical cause to her condition.

