

# WAYout

WORLDWIDE ARTS FOR YOUTH

**Press release**  
**18<sup>th</sup> April 2017**

## **Frank Turner becomes patron of charity WAYout following visit to Sierra Leone.**

Following his recent trip with the Joe Strummer Foundation, Frank Turner is the new patron of charity WAYout.

Frank Turner visited WAYout in Sierra Leone in March 2017, where he worked with street youth, gangs and ex-combatants, and visited some of the most deprived parts of the country.

Frank's journey is wonderfully captured in his own blog, here: <http://frank-turner.com/blog/> and on his Instagram feed #FTJSFWO



Examples of the music he made with WAYout members include this popular piece with Meeky Star: [https://youtu.be/TYWFzg\\_Nfyc](https://youtu.be/TYWFzg_Nfyc). He also recorded a track with street rappers The Black Street Family, called “We Lek Wi Salone” and Mash P a track called “After the Jungle” about Mash' experience following being a child soldier.

**Speaking about the work of WAYout, Frank Turner says:** *Now that the dust has, for me, settled a little, I can see the enormous value in what they do. One of the comments made to me often by the kids at the project was that they were the only aid group who treated them as individuals, who helped them self-realise. Since starting, more than 2,700 Sierra Leonean kids have passed through the program. It's not a panacea, these people weren't “saved” from the situation they were born into, but the project gives real, vital value to their lives.*

**WAYout co-founder, Hazel Chandler, says of Frank joining as a patron:** *'Frank did more to raise awareness of the work of WAYout in four days than any other individual ever has. Taking the time to come to Sierra Leone and visit some of the poorest communities in the world; well outside his comfort zones; not only showed great trust in the organisation but huge commitment to wanting to see change and do what he could to enable it. He will be a great support'*

**Gibo, WAYout studio engineer and ex- street youth who worked with Frank on the recent trip said** “ *It is a great chance for us. We learnt a lot when he was here from the way he makes music. He is a star and he showed street youth that they can do it.*”

Higher resolution photos available on request. For all press enquiries, contact Michael Chandler at WAYout: [michael@wayoutarts.org](mailto:michael@wayoutarts.org)



## **Notes for editors**

### **ABOUT WAYout**

Founded in 2008, WAYout changes the lives of street, vulnerable and conflict affected young people through the arts. We offer training and shelter, make films that can effect change and record music that enables the excluded to re-engage. We promote artistic freedom, education and empowerment. To date the charity has supported and worked with over 2,700 street youth and people from disadvantaged communities, and has recorded over 1000 tracks in the music studio, funded by [the Joe Strummer Foundation](#).

Frank joins other WAYout patrons comedian and activist Mark Thomas, writer Nick Hornby, and actor Ellen Thomas.

### **ABOUT FRANK TURNER**

**Frank Turner is an English folk/punk singer-songwriter who has been active as a musician since 2001.**

Frank Turner has an innovative way of blending the genres of folk, punk and rock with his intelligent lyrics to create quietly anthemic music. Often described as a social commentator, the Bahrain born, Meonstoke raised songwriter released his first album 'Sleep Is for the Week' in 2007 which was received well critically. 'Love Ire & Song' came in the following year and made Turner's first dent in the UK album charts, his reputation was growing quickly as his tours began to sell out by his loyal fan base.

The next album 'Poetry of the Deed' debuted within the UK top 40 thanks to support from the likes of Kerrang and Q Magazine. This album gained him a nomination for an NME Award in the Best Solo Artist category. He became a regular on the festival circuit, playing Two Thousand Trees, Reading & Leeds and Cambridge Folk to support the release of 2011 album 'England Keep My Bones'. He won two AIM awards in the same year for Best Live Act and Hardest Working Artist.

In 2012 Frank and his support band The Sleeping Souls were personally invited as the warm up act to the London 2012 Olympics Opening Ceremony where they played 'Sailor's Boots' 'Wessex Boy' and 'I Still Believe'. His biggest commercial album to date was released in 2013 and was titled 'Tape Deck Heart', it debuted in the UK at #2 and holds a MetaCritic score of 78/100.

### **FIND OUT MORE**

**Twitter/Instagram:** @WAYoutArts or #FTJSFWO for more about Frank Turner's work with WAYout in Sierra Leone

**Facebook:** [www.facebook.com/wayoutarts](http://www.facebook.com/wayoutarts)

**YouTube:** <https://www.youtube.com/user/wayoutarts>

[www.wayoutarts.org](http://www.wayoutarts.org)