

## 2017 Review Newsletter



WAYout members

A lot's been happening at WAYout in the last year. Following the Ebola crisis, mudslides and flooding, unemployment amongst youth remains at 60-70% and centres which cater for street or disadvantaged youth, like WAYout, remain very few. Our membership continues to grow faster than we can cater for and our new centre at Kissi Town is already over subscribed. We continue to need your support and donations of equipment. This year we gave out 240 course certificates, had music videos at number one in the National charts, completed many films for broadcast and NGOs including for WaterAid, Advocaid and disability rights organisation DST. We reached 3300 with membership, many of whom are now in work or other education and found homes for 99. The [Joe Strummer Foundation](#) continue to support us and brought out Frank Turner and a lot of equipment in March. We won funding from Lush to support GLBTI group 'Dignity' with training and equipment and private funding to develop the women's facilities. Core funding remains a challenge and our list of people waiting to join grows every day. so we are still very dependent on your support to keep us going.

**PLEASE NOTE - 100% of your money goes to Sierra Leone. Please do help us continue our work – see below for information on how to donate.**

For any further information about our current or future projects, please don't hesitate to get in contact, at [info@wayoutarts.org](mailto:info@wayoutarts.org)

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**WAYout is 10**



WAYout is proud to say we will be celebrating our 10th birthday in 2018. We will be running events in the UK and Sierra Leone to celebrate and we would love to hear from you if you'd like to get involved and support - drop us an email at [info@wayoutarts.org](mailto:info@wayoutarts.org) or watch our [facebook](#) page for details and check out #WAYoutIs10 hashtag to see what we're up to.

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**New WAYout at Kissi Town**



We opened a new centre in May 2017- our second branch. Kissi Town housed 11,000 Liberian and Sierra Leonean refugees at the end of the war. Now, 23,000 people live there, many of them unemployed youth with no electricity or free water supply. WAYout's relationship with Kissi Town goes back to 2008 when we ran arts courses there so we are delighted to finally be able to offer full time facilities, prompted by Frank Turner's visit. Membership stands at 120 and is growing every week. We hope to build on this in 2018.



**Kissi Town's first media trainees**

**WaterAid**



WAYout is delighted to be working on the WaterAid campaign "[Untapped](#)". Three of our filmmakers, Josta Hopps, Susan Kargbo and Alusine Kamara, are making short films and supporting participants with their photography as part of a four month campaign. Everything centres on a small, remote village called Tombuhuan as clean water comes to the village. Our team are following the progress of the well and shooting '[How to...](#)' films; [How to make soap..](#) [How to make cocoa juice..](#) etc. This is great experience for those working on it.



**Josta shooting in Tombuhuan**

We also recorded two songs for [World Toilet Day](#) about the issues facing women who do not have access to clean toilets. These are also [videos](#)

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**Frank Turner and JSF**

[Frank Turner](#), with band member Ben, and Jamie and Dave from the [Joe Strummer Foundation](#) (JSF) visited Freetown in March 2017. JSF have supported WAYout since 2012 when they funded our first studio so it was

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exciting to welcome them to see where their funding is going. See film [here](#)

The JSF raised £3,500 to upgrade, replace or buy new studio equipment and musical instruments.



Frank Turner in Kissi Town



New instruments arrive at WAYout from JSF

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This was a very successful visit. Check out [Frank's blog](#) and this article in [Rolling Stone](#). We visited four very poor, forgotten areas- Kissi Town, Moor Wharf and Susan's Bay- gullyside slums and Ferry Junction, home of the Iron Team.

## The Choice- feature film



The Iron Team

We have produced many music videos, short dramas and documentaries this year. You can look through them on our [youtube](#) but we are most thrilled to have shot a feature film, now in post production. The Choice was written and directed by Foday Sillah. Alusine Kamara was DOP and it starred Nathaniel Sesay (Mash P) and Abdul Aziz Kamara. We aim to release it in Spring 2018.

So we are now running music or filmmaking workshops in these areas. Frank recorded tracks with the [Black Street Family](#), Mash P and [Meeky](#)



Frank singing with Meeky



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Foday Sillah and crew on set

There have been no film festivals in Sierra Leone since Ebola but we were delighted to get '[Say No to Early Sex](#)' into International ones.



Shooting Mash P video at Railway Museum

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### Partner Documentaries

WAYout partnered with [Advocaid](#) to make a film about the human rights abuses experienced by sex workers, '[Kolonko](#)'. It took two years to make and was [launched](#) at the end of 2017



The launch of 'Kolonko'

WAYout also partnered with the Dorothy Springer Trust to make three [documentaries](#) and two adverts presenting a positive image of disability.



This year we worked with National youth TV station AYV producing a six part observational documentary series '[The Vet](#)', mainly shot and edited by Josta Hopps, assisted by Mohamed Kamara. The series is very popular and AYV keep repeating it. We also made a one off documentary following the dedicated team of the Sierra Leone Fire Force. We have four WAYout trained people now working at AYV, most recently Sinneh Sesay and Mohamed Conteh, and an arrangement with them to take interns in the future.

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### Partner project with Dignity

With funding from Lush Charity Pots, WAYout has been working with GLBTI group, Dignity, offering training in digital media carried out by Sinneh Sesay and Kabba Kargbo. We presented them with their own camera and laptop and will continue to give support as needed.



Dignity receive camera and editing kit

## Floods and Grants



Ferry Junction in the floods

WAYout has run a small grants scheme for three years now which allows people who have been coming for six months and show themselves committed to learning, to apply for a grant for rent, essential travel or literacy classes. 85 people have received grants for homes plus 14 from Ferry Junction who were rehoused following our flood appeal. Every year, during the rainy season, slum (gully) areas of Freetown flood and people lose their homes. This year that flooding was particularly bad leading to the mud slides that killed hundreds of people. Many WAYout members live in these susceptible areas but we managed to move some further up the hill to avoid seasonal flooding.

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## WAYout Women



A women only toilet!

Thanks to the generous support of a private donor, we have employed a female member of staff, Susan Kargbo, and been able to build a women's toilet as well as add equipment to the women's room. We had a 'Women's

Month' which focused on women's issues and encouraged our female members to be in the studio "[Make a Change](#)" and engage in filmmaking. They ran a [gender swap](#) experiment in which some of the guys dressed up as women to see what difference it made to how others responded to them. But it remains hard to encourage the women, especially those on the street, to take part long term. Susan is currently looking at outreach programmes.

## Music Action International MAI



MAI and WAYout perform in Ferry Junction

MAI use the power of creativity to overcome the trauma of war, torture and armed conflict. They won Guardian Charity of the year 2016. In November 2017, we were visited by Lis Murphy and Faz Shah from [MAI](#) who ran a facilitators programme and choir, involving 30 WAYout members. In the morning facilitators were trained in how to run similar programmes and in the afternoons it was the choir, culminating in two performances in Ferry Junction.



Getting MAI certificates

Those taking part really benefitted from it and we are looking at ways of carrying this work forward with MAI.

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## Certificates and training

WAYout awarded 180 certificates this year for courses completed in photoshop, music, editing, camera, documentary making and logic music production plus some special ones for courses run by visiting volunteers. Joanne Schofield ran a radio production



Members receiving certificates in August

course, Stella Harding a poetry course and the MAI course. A grand total of 240 certificates awarded.



Poetry group with their certificates



Joanne with female members of the radio course

Many courses are now taught by WAYout staff and experienced WAYout members, who are always encouraged to pass on what they have learnt but we always need volunteers to further that education or teach subjects we do not have expertise in. We would like to thank other volunteers who have contributed and taught courses that were not certificated- Richard Dove (proposal writing), [Martin Godleman](#) (creative writing), [Paul Glynn](#) (filmmaking), Natasha Merritt (music) and Sam Wheat (studio production)

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## Poetry Group

In February 2017, volunteer [Stella Harding](#) visited us in Freetown and started the poetry group. This clearly ignited an enthusiasm for writing verse which was unexpected and infectious. There were ten in the original group and their poems were exhibited in London as part of the Poetry Slab. One member of the group, Cleffy, was shortlisted for the Commonwealth Poetry prize. His poem 'Sierra Leone' is pasted below.



Stella Harding making a basket

There are now 17 in the group which continues to meet and write regularly.

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## WAYout Music



WAYout band in rehearsal

We completed albums by Du'unk, King Che and Mash P available on [bandcamp](#) and [soundcloud](#)



Black Street Family rehearse to play live

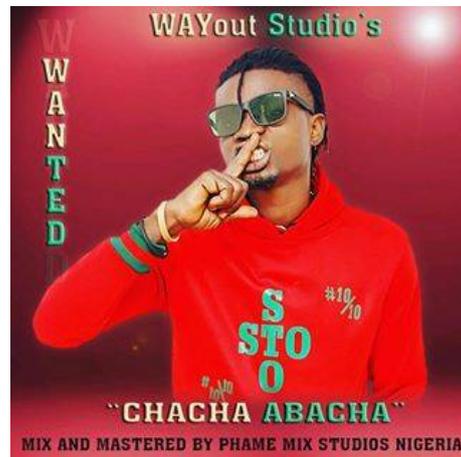
We have two recording studios. Studio 1 is where most of the recording takes place with new and regular musicians. Studio 2 is where members are trained in and practice studio production and logic. We record at least 300 new tracks a year but still have a waiting time of two months to get in the studio. This year we have encouraged people to play live and several WAYout artists-[Wanted](#), [Mash P](#), King Che, [Du'unk](#) and Kemoh-performed live at the Freetown Music Festival.



Du'unk



Mash P live at the Freetown Festival



Wanted

Our music and music videos are regularly on National TV and radio.



Wanted and Mash P on Democracy Radio

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WAYout is a registered charity, number 1123777  
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## New Patrons

We are delighted to welcome [Nick Hornby](#) as patron, known for bestselling books 'About a Boy', 'Fever Pitch' and 'A Long Way Down' and screenplays 'An Education', 'Wild' and 'Brooklyn'.



Nick Hornby

and [Frank Turner](#) as patron. Frank's new album 'Songbook' has just been released. Described as one of the world's hardest working musicians, Frank is folk/punk singer-songwriter who began his career as the vocalist of post-hardcore band Million Dead. Frank visited WAYout earlier this year- see above.



Frank Turner

They join patrons actor Ellen Thomas and comedian [Mark Thomas](#)

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## Thank yous

There are so many thank yous-



Jamie of JSF

We are very grateful for the continued support of [The Joe Strummer Foundation](#). Harriet Hall, Frank Turner, Nick Hornby, Lush Charity Pots and Marian Fielding for funding.



Staff Gibo, Alusine, Susan and Josta standing. John and MSK

As always, thank you to staff; Gibrilla Kamara, studio engineer, cashier and general organiser; John Nashville, studio engineer, logic tutor and grants manager; Josta Hopps, filmmaker and tutor; Mohamed S. kamara, filmmaker, tutor and keeper of databases; Alusine Kamara, filmmaker, tutor and lead at Kissi and Susan Kargbo, filmmaker, tutor and organiser of women's groups. Thank you also to our music producers -Thomas Wise Amara and kaikai



Kaikai



Thomas Wise Amara



**WAYout needs YOU!**

We are looking for new trustees and volunteers to help here in the UK and in Sierra Leone on our up-and-coming projects for our tenth birthday.

- Areas of specialism required include;
- Fundraising - grants, applications, corporate/private equity relations; events and activities
- Finance and accounting
- International Law
- Web presence - website management and social networking.
- Music & film teaching/production

Or, if you have any money-raising ideas, would like to donate equipment or resources, or would like to volunteer to fundraise, host events, and in other ways, please get in contact – [info@wayoutarts.org](mailto:info@wayoutarts.org).

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[WAYout website.](#)  
[Volunteer for WAYout](#)

[WAYout twitter](#)  
[Facebook.](#)

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**Shortlisted Poem**

SIERRA LEONE by Cleffy (Ibrahim Sorie Bangura)

My home, the home where joy and sorrow  
fight like cats and dogs  
The home where sweet and sour dreams  
are friends  
A side of planet earth that is life plugging  
and full of frustration  
A land of innocent labourers, market  
traders and basket makers  
A meeting ground of strange  
advantageous creatures  
A home that forces people to live, but they  
cannot survive  
Here, my parents' umbilical cords and  
mine are planted

Back home, before the young night  
approaches  
Grandmama, little ones and I will hurry to  
a local bench  
A local chair, sometimes to half a block to  
hunch  
Waiting for stories that crack teeth to tell  
Our ears of every size stretching like  
rubber bands to listen  
Our eyes like cats watching the mouth of  
the storyteller  
And there the lonely moon will want to  
come down to have some fun

This is the home where  
During a strong night under the same  
moon  
We ran after our shadows like fools  
We made play with the moon like a living  
thing  
Telling our shadows to take one step at a  
time  
We had great laughter with our shadows  
Though I cried once at my shadow

I love this home. Mud full when it rains  
Village masses share rooms with snakes  
Agile birds freeze at our windows looking  
for a warmer place  
Children in their mother's room laughing  
Some will provide them with a safer  
dwelling place  
That can make them see heaven in their  
dreams  
And fishes mostly sleep with empty bellies  
in the water

I love everything here  
This home never encounters drought  
Everything comes to time; sweet paw-paw  
and mangoes  
Oranges, grapefruit and pineapple  
My memories of home are sharper than a  
warrior's sword  
Look at the grasshopper fallen in my trick  
trap. I heard it screaming  
I think it heard me celebrating louder

If you see ghosts on their way back home  
don't run  
This land is theirs. It is still theirs, they love  
it  
Allow them to sit and rest  
Keep their company if you can  
Bring peace to this land if you can