

## NEWSLETTER AUTUMN 2021

Despite Covid 19, a lot's been happening at WAYout. Our membership continues to grow and we have just moved to a new home.

Since the last newsletter we have given out 180 course certificates, finished our second feature film "Ghost Killer"; had many successes in international film festivals; opened the Women's Media Group in Bo Province; performed in multiple live streams; continued working in the male and female prisons and we also started music sessions in the psychiatric Hospital. Many members are now in work or education-including international courses, in homes and reconnected with family. Thanks to the continued support of The Joe Strummer Foundation and patron Frank Turner we now have a studio in the male prison, mobile studio and two studios in the main building.

Coming up we have a touring photography exhibition opening in Bridport Arts Centre, UK in 2022; a poetry slam in November; the launch of 'Ghost Killer'; the release of an album called '*Sounds of Salone*'. Core funding remains a challenge and so we still need your support and equipment donations to keep us going. For any further information about our current or future projects, please don't hesitate to get in touch at [info@wayoutarts.org](mailto:info@wayoutarts.org)

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**WAYout Achievements**

**WEBSITE**

**DONATE**

We have worked with over 5,500 young people, given out over 1,600 certificates, recorded 2,500 tracks, got 125 people off the streets and in to homes and many more into work. We offer 32 different courses from camera and editing to music production and and graphic design to confidence building and human rights.



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## Corona Virus

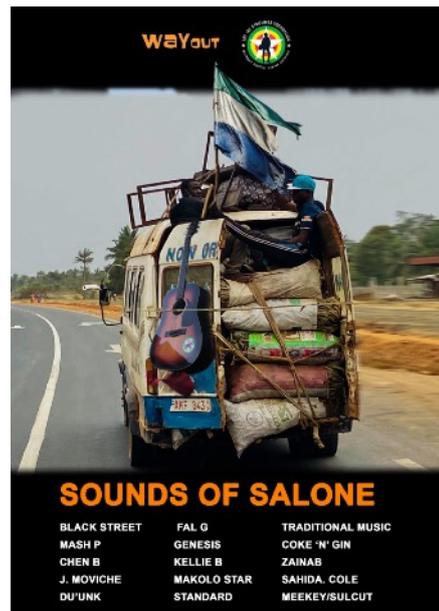
Last year we had food programmes in place during lockdowns and many events, including fundraisers, had to be cancelled or postponed but we hope to schedule them in the near future. Susan Kargbo recently made a documentary about the impact of the virus on women and girls in the provinces where many have dropped out of school and been forced in to early marriage and sex work. Some of these women are now part of the WAYout Women's Media Group in Bo province.

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## DONATE

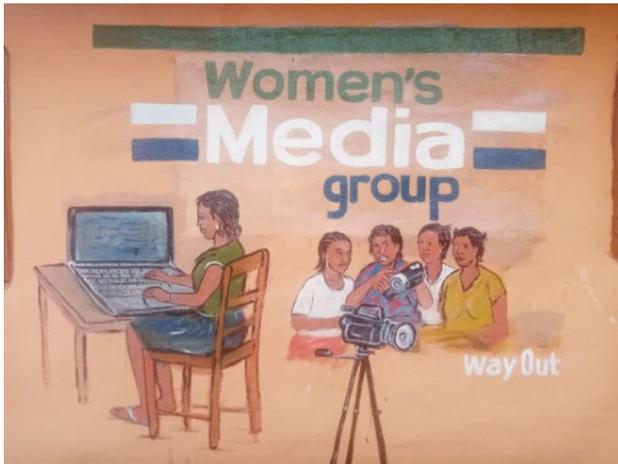
## WAYout Music and Mobile Studio

Thanks to the Joe Strummer Foundation and Frank Turner we now have four music studios- the main recording studio, studio 2 where members learn how to produce music, a studio in the male prison and a mobile studio, the only one in Sierra Leone, which has been a great success. It enables us to go out into remote places where there are no recording facilities and work with talented youth who are unemployed. A bedroom quickly transforms into a studio. The Joe Strummer Foundation is releasing an album of various WAYout artists called *Sounds of Salone*.



Many of our tracks are played on national radio stations. Having a track recorded not only means youth can promote their music, it often enables them to reunite with family and show that they have achieved something and are not useless as they are often perceived to be.

## Women's Projects



Earlier this year we opened the Women's Media Group in Bo District. We trained a group of 30 women in digital media who made films about women's health and want to continue making dramas and documentaries about women's rights, gender preference, domestic abuse and health issues. This is a grassroots organisation supported by WAYout. It has its own website [www.wayoutwmg.org](http://www.wayoutwmg.org). We also partnered with Advocaid to produce an event of music, films and poetry for International Women's Day 2021.



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## Mash P Global Talent Visa



We are very proud to announce that a WAYout member, Mash P, got a Global Talent Visa and now has a place to study for a degree in music and a full scholarship at WaterBear College. Mash is an amazing talent and worked hard for this and we hope it is just the beginning of opportunities for WAYout members to travel and learn.

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## Live Streaming

Covid brought zooms and live streaming in to everyone's lives. We have been lucky enough to be invited to take part in several live streams during the crisis. The Joe Strummer

<p><b>Musical Conversations</b></p> <p>An International Music Exchange 6pm 9th July 2021</p> <p>Contact rosie@good-vibrations.org.uk for the Zoom link</p>	 
<p><b>WayOut</b> WORLDWIDE ARTS FOR YOUTH</p>	

Foundation hosted 6, the first included patron Frank Turner. We were part of King's College Africa Week and recently partnered with Good Vibrations as part of a streaming of global music.

proposals to international funders and broadcasters and many member's music videos are played on National TV. We train to a high, professional standard giving skills that can not only give voice, confidence and an open door back home or in to other education but which also lead to jobs.



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## Ghost Killer

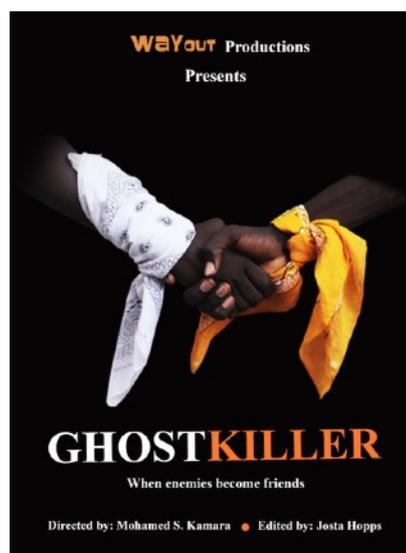
**Secret Friends, Public Enemies.** Ghost Killer is our recently finished feature film starring and crewed by five of the most notorious gangs of Freetown. Based on their own life stories, rival cliques came together to act and crew the film. Most said it couldn't be done but we believed in their talent and wanted to show how young people get drawn in to gang life and can't get out of it. It challenges the preconceived idea of gangs as thugs and drop outs. Fal G, an ex-gangster himself, has rapport with these gangs and brings them together as WAYout's street ambassador.

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## WAYout Filmmakers

Our filmmakers are excelling. The Return, Bread 'n' Butter, Abused and Homeless have all been accepted into international film festivals. We have now supplied regular interns to the national broadcasters, especially AYV TV but also Freetown TV and Sierra Leone Broadcasting Corp. Several of our filmmakers are now submitting



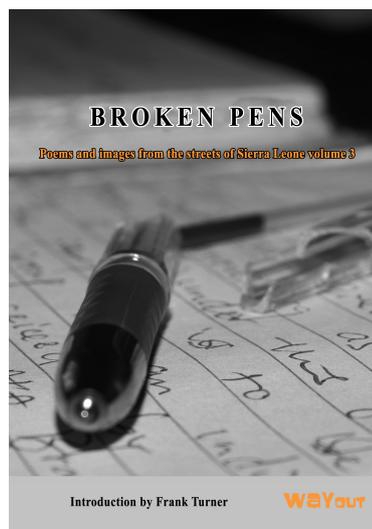
It tells the story of two guys from rival gangs who secretly become friends through their shared love of writing rap and poetry- but can their friendship survive?

It has already been screened on National TV and in the gulley-side, leading to valuable debate about gang life and ways forward. Director Mohamed Kamara. DOP Josta Hopps.



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### WAYout Poets, festivals and slam



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Since the poetry group started, early 2017, it has gone from strength to strength. We have just published the third anthology of poems, “Broken Pens” which follows “Written Off” and “Street Rhymes” with introductions from Frank Turner. 17 poets came together to write and perform ‘Homeless’ which has been accepted in to several international film festivals. Alhaji Kondeh won the national poetry competition on the theme of corruption many poets have been published in online magazines and been invited to perform at events. Last year’s poetry slam was cancelled but this year it will be in November.

### Prison Work

WAYout has been working in the women’s prison Tales from the Women’s Prison for some time running photoshop classes, choir, writing and drawing classes. Their work was exhibited on IWD and is printed in ‘Broken Pens’. The men’s prison has 1,000 inmates, many of whom are very talented. Some WAYout members are inmates because they get arrested for loitering and if you live on the street, that’s unavoidable. The mobile studio was so effective in terms of offering prisoners an outlet for their creativity and reducing tension and volatility for

the guards, that they have given us a room to open a permanent WAYout studio in the prison. Watch dis

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### Kissi Psychiatric Hospital

WAYout has been running weekly Music Therapy sessions at Kissi psychiatric Teaching Hospital. A recent assessment by the hospital said “The music sessions and non verbal behaviours related to emotional and empathetic relationship between patient and therapist during MT sessions is essential in rebuilding sound well being.”

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### WAYout New Home



Last, but by no means least- **we have a new home.** We did not want to leave the old one but the lease ended and we had to move. The new home is even better. Bigger and lighter, avocados and bananas in the garden and a dog, called WAYout, came with it. It is only a short walk from the previous WAYout so existing members can easily attend.

Thank you to all who fundraised to make this happen and the team of WAYout members who did the heavy lifting and decorating.



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### Patron Frank Turner

Frank has been a huge supporter of WAYout following his visits to Sierra Leone. He has fundraised and recorded with members, fought for Mash P to get his visa and written about us. We hope to see him back soon. If you haven't seen it please read his blog. <https://frank-turner.com/blog/>



## Joe Strummer Foundation



The JSF has provided 4 music studios for WAYout, the main studio, the teaching studio, mobile studio and the one in the prison. They funded our car and arranged visits from Frank Turner and others as well as organising fund raising events and shows. Jamie Webb has given a lot of time to supporting WAYout and we cannot thank him and JSF enough.

### **Marian Fielding**

Marian has supported us from the beginning with funding and enthusiasm. Her regular donations have provided stability and we continue to be very grateful



## **The Staff**



Where would we be without the wonderful staff? WAYout staff all come up through WAYout so they know and understand what our members lives have been like. None of the above events and classes could be possible without them.

### **Gibrilla Kamara- WAYout Manager**

Gibo is also a studio engineer, musician and filmmaker. He has mixed and mastered some great tracks over his 9 years with us. He manages the centre and represents the organisation.

### **John Kalokoh - Studio Engineer and Grants Manager**

John has also been with us 9 years and is a studio engineer. He teaches logic to members, works in the prison and psychiatric hospital and he runs the grant system which helps people off the street.

### **Josta Hopps - filmmaker and teacher**

Josta was a WAYout member long before he was staff. He now teaches filmmaking and makes films for other NGOs. It was Josta who directed *Homeless* and *Bread 'n' Butter* which have been official selection in many international festivals. His photographs have been exhibited internationally.

**Susan Karbo - filmmaker, campaigner and teacher**

Susan makes challenging films about women’s issues- fistula, early marriage, gender preference etc. Her film ‘Abused’ won international acclaim. She started the WAYout Women’s Media Group WMG in Bo district and teaches filmmaking.

**Mohamed S. Kamara- filmmaker and teacher**

MSK teaches filmmaking as well as developing his own films and working with King’s College on cliques. He manages our outreach groups in Ferry Junction and Fisher Street Market and directed *Ghost Killer*.

**Tejan Bah- Graphic design teacher and organiser**

Tejan is the newest member of staff. He is a great designer and teaches photoshop and basic computer. He also is a good organiser doing bookings and production management.

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**Patrons**

**Frank Turner** Described as one of the world’s hardest working musicians, Frank is a folk/punk singer-songwriter.

**Nick Hornby** known for bestselling books ‘About a Boy’, ‘Fever Pitch’ and ‘A Long Way Down’ and screenplays ‘An Education’, ‘Wild’ and ‘Brooklyn’.

**Ellen Thomas** Born in Sierra Leone. Actor best known for ‘Eastenders’, ‘Dark Money’, ‘Casualty’.

**Mark Thomas** Prolific writer, comedian and broadcaster

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**Ambassadors**

**Jamie Webb** of the Joe Strummer Foundation. Jamie has supported WAYout since the JSF funded our first music studio in 2012. He has visited us in Salone,

raised funding for 4 studios, car, core costs and generally raised our profile.



**Nathaniel Sesay**

Better known as Mash P. Nathaniel was on the streets for 12 years. At WAYout he completed most of the courses and became a graduate 3 years ago. Since then he has won a global talent visa for his music and a Scholarship to study in the UK.

**Trustees:**

Michael Chandler - Chair/co-founder

Hazel Chandler- Director/co-founder

John Macartney

Nicholas Mcinerny

Ashley Minto

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**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.

Areas of specialism required include;

- Fundraising - grant applications, corporate/private equity relations; events and activities
- Finance and accounting
- 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 help, please get in contact – [info@wayoutarts.org](mailto:info@wayoutarts.org).

## DONATE

[WAYout website.](#)

[Volunteer for WAYout](#)

[WAYout twitter](#)

[Facebook.](#)

## RECENT FUNDERS

THE  
KATE FARRER  
FOUNDATION

thewaterloofoundation\*



## QUOTES

“People were afraid of us, now they come and sit with us” Black Street Family

“WAYout gave me a chance in life” Alhaji Kondeh

“WAYout showed me a woman can do what a man can do” Margot Kamara

“Since I came to WAYout I see changes in my life” Yusef Conteh

“My admiration is undimmed.” -Frank Turner

“Why should someone on the streets not dream of being a filmmaker?” Mark Thomas

“Music saved my life, without music I just had bad memories “-Mash P

”There was no respect for me but now people listen to me” Genesis

“They make a measurable difference to a real group of people” -Frank Turner

”WAYout provides a safe environment for street youth to explore their creativity” Jamie Webb

“It has given me a second chance in life after years spent on the street with no achievements.” Black Eno