

Report back to The Funding Network

- 1. Name of your organisation and date funded by TFN:** Her Equality Rights and Autonomy (HERA), funded by TFN on 3 June 2016, HERA received GBP 4,810.

- 2. What was the project you sought funding for from TFN?**

The funding was sought to cover the training cost of four women survivors of human trafficking. The entrepreneurship training course is an intensive 3-week long programme at Imperial College Business School, followed by professional mentoring and an ongoing education programme.

- 3. Were you able to do this work as you described it in your application and presentation?**

Yes, the four women successfully completed the programme and are currently pursuing different career options.

- 4. If you were not able, please explain what happened and why?**

N/A

- 5. Can you measure, assess or describe the change that happened as a result of this work?**

As a result of this work, HERA was able to recruit 40 women survivors for the July 2016 Entrepreneurship Programme. Forty was the highest number ever recruited for this programme and represented an increase of four students over the next highest year when 36 were recruited. At the end of this year's entrepreneurship programme, 39 women eventually received an Imperial College Business School certificate and the 40th completed the course but not her final project, which is required to receive the certificate. This cohort then benefitted from a strong network of peers, mentors, and individual tutors. End-of-course reporting showed that the clear majority reported that they gained valuable skills to pursue and develop their business interests and careers. Participants, who rated the course gave an average score of 4.57 on a scale of one to five (with five, the best). TFN's contribution funded 10% of this work (four of 40 women).

- 6. As a result of presenting at TFN, did you experience any of the following;**

new subscribers to your mailing list
new volunteers to your organisation
further funding from individual donors
further funding from institutional funders
an introduction that benefitted your organisation (e.g. to an individual, business or other organisation)
other benefit (please describe)

Organising the “pitch” was a good opportunity to collaborate with Salesforce. With Joanne Chiswick’s support, we eventually gained a committed trustee. HERA may have also gained further funding from individual donors as our online Giving increased during that period. However, many donations were anonymous and that period leading up to the mentor training and summer programme is also our busiest period of the year so we cannot say definitively.

7. Could you give us an estimate of how many people have been reached by the TFN funded project/work and by how much?

This year 40 women survivors of trafficking, conflict, violence and other forms of violence and exploitation attended the training and 39 women successfully completed the HERA Entrepreneurship Training at Imperial College Business School and presented their final projects. Of the 40 women from the course, 60% have their asylum hearings pending and cannot legally work. However, they gained critical employment and entrepreneurship skills which they may eventually use in the UK or in their home countries. Of the 40 students, four have trialled a venture, one obtained employment, ten are continuing coursework and training, four are doing volunteer work, and one has an apprenticeship. Of the 24 whose asylum cases were pending, four successfully received asylum.

8. Can you tell us any personal stories to highlight the value of funding from TFN?

Please note that names have been changed to maintain the women’s anonymity.

Dina, 27 years of age, was trafficked and brought to the UK illegally from Albania. During the programme, she performed exceptionally well. She was granted asylum soon after the entrepreneurship training and could therefore, pursue her career plans. She is currently pursuing further training and her objective is to join the UK police force. In Albania, she attended the national police academy and had served as a police officer when she was trafficked. She remains committed to being a police woman and hopes to become a top investigative officer.

Cora, 30 year of age, is from Madagascar. Over the course of the summer programme, she developed her business plan for a food catering business which she plans to start as soon as she is allowed to work in the UK. In the meantime, she attends courses in catering and meets regularly with her mentor who has been helping Cora to gain computer skills. Cora is currently writing a blog to share her experiences with others.

Amalia, 37 years of age, is a single mother from Ethiopia. She survived a series of traumatic events since coming to the UK 10 years ago. Until she attended the HERA programme, she had difficulty making plans and had no access to resources which she desperately needed to start a coffee business. Since the course, she has gained the right to work and has already trialled a small business selling specialist Ethiopian coffee in North East London. She has big aspirations for herself and her four-year-old daughter.

Tracy, 25 years of age, originated from Nigeria. She was trafficked to the UK as a child by her grandmother and was forced to work 12 or more hours each day for many years before she finally managed to escape and seek help. Attending the entrepreneurship training programme allowed Tracy to pursue her academic studies again. She reports that she was a gifted primary school student in Nigeria, enjoys academics, and is now pursuing a degree in nursing.

All four women gained critical skills, confidence, and access to new opportunities from attending the programme last summer. They are now in a better position to build a better life for themselves and their families.

9. Since presenting at TFN, has your organisation undergone any significant change(s) which our donors would be interested to know about (these changes do not need to be related to the experience of presenting at TFN).

We had a change in our key staff person as Luciana Tellez moved to Dublin to pursue human rights' work there. Gokce Tuna, an Imperial Business School doctoral candidate, became the Academic Director and organised last summer's course and monthly seminars. This year, the HERA team offered an additional hour (increasing from seven to eight hours) of training for new mentors in June and for the first time, a follow up Saturday training for mentors in October.

10. Do you have any other comments regarding TFN funding?

It was a good experience for us to organise a team of a trustee, staff member, and corporate volunteer to present live – and to practice and enact what we teach other women to do.

11. Can you please include any relevant photos or clips that may relate to the project.



'Idea Generation' Session taught by Hamza Siddiq



Former HERA Students and Mentors Panel



'Running Successful Businesses' Led by Miisa Mink, a successful Woman Entrepreneur

** Attached clip shows one of the summer presentations.