

## Ayesha's Untold Migrant Story

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# AYESHA'S STORY



IT'S BEEN A LONG TIME SINCE I HAVE BEEN HOME. NOW, I'M A REFUGEE IN TUNISIA. MANY BAD THINGS HAVE HAPPENED TO ME BUT I LIVE IN HOPE THAT THINGS WILL CHANGE.



I HAVE SOME HAPPY MEMORIES OF MY FAMILY.



WHEN MY GRANDMOTHER DIED, THE ELDERS IN MY COMMUNITY WANTED ME TO TAKE OVER HER ROLE DOING FGM/C (FEMALE GENITAL MUTILATION OR CUTTING).



I KNOW THE PAIN I FELT WHEN I WAS CIRCUMCISED SO I COULDN'T DARE REPEAT THE SAME PAIN TO A CHILD, SO I LEFT.



\* DISTANCE FROM SIERRA LEONE TO LIBYA : 3,646 KM (2,266 MILES)

# LIBYA

# ITALY

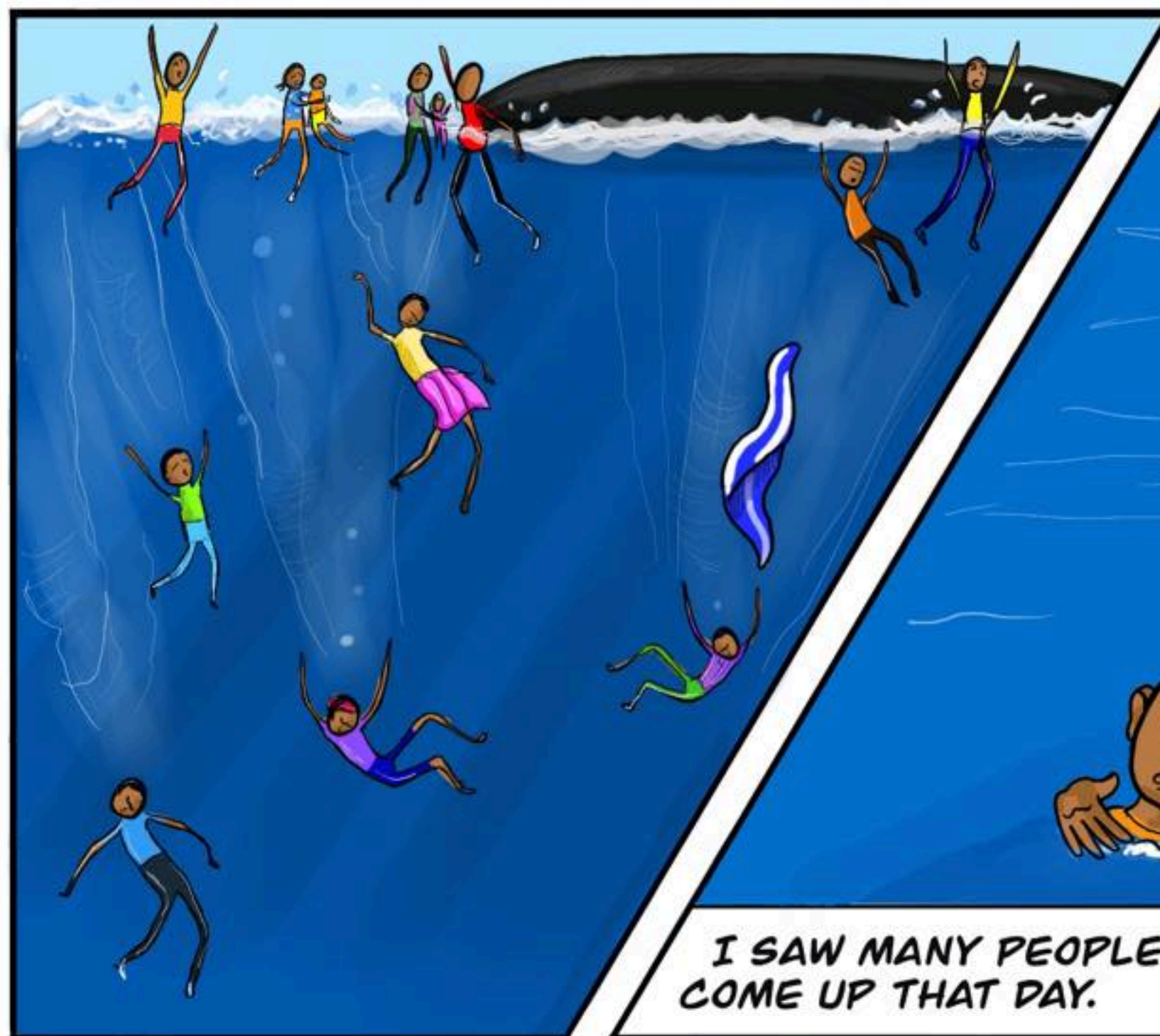
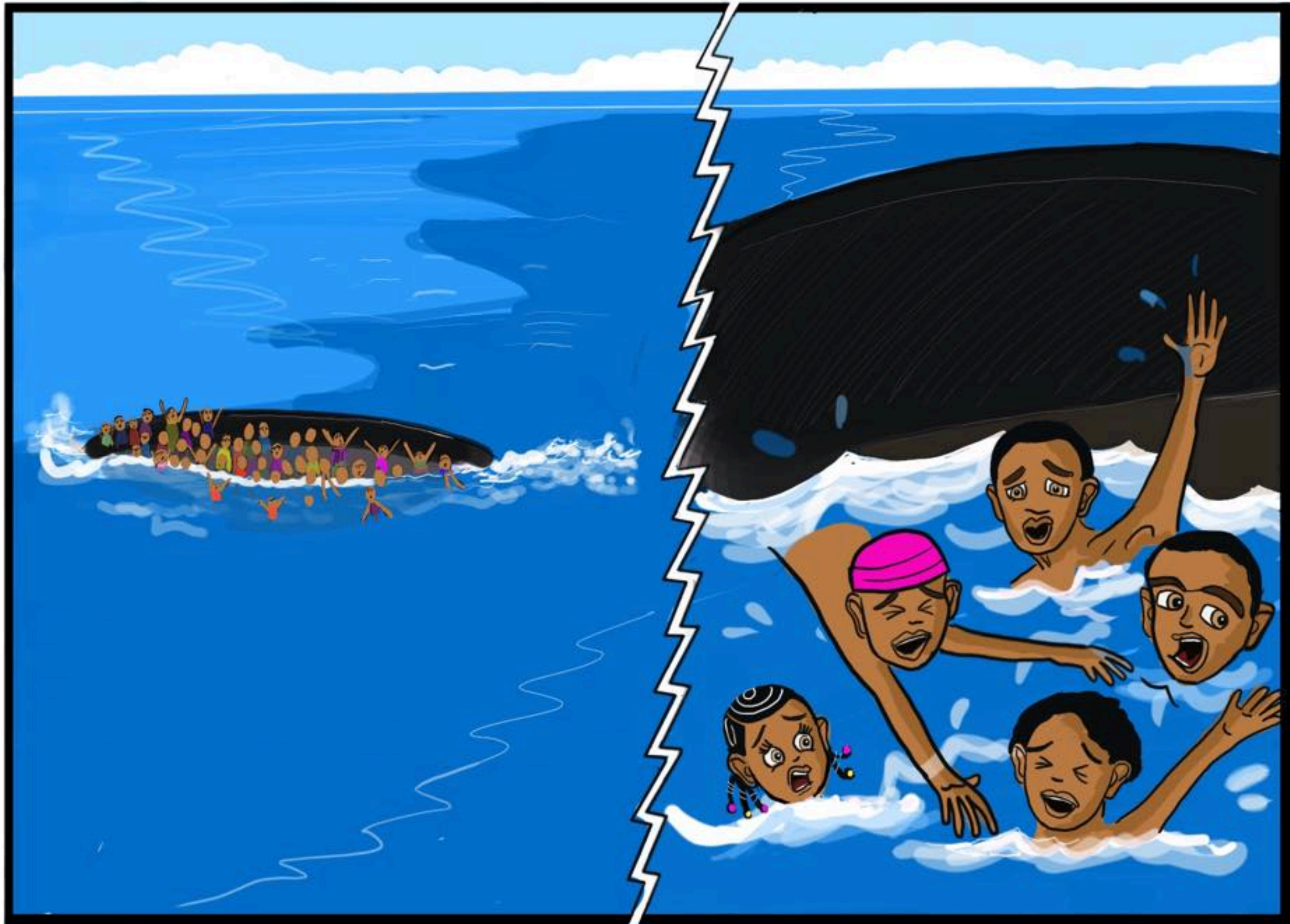
I HOPED  
A LIFE IN  
ITALY WOULD  
BE BETTER



DISTANCE FROM LIBYA TO ITALY: 1,776 KM (1,104 MILES)



THE BOAT FELT UNSTEADY. I USED MY LAPPA TO SECURE AN UNACCOMPANIED BOY SO THAT HE WOULDN'T FALL IN.



I SAW MANY PEOPLE GO DOWN IN THE WATER AND NOT COME UP THAT DAY.

THE BOY AND I WERE SAVED BY A SEA RESCUE OPERATION.



I FELT TERRIFIED ON THE HELICOPTER TO TUNISIA.



BUT NOW I AM STUCK HERE. WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR ME?



I APPLIED FOR RESETTLEMENT IN PAPUA NEW GUINEA BUT I DIDN'T GET IT SO I HAD TO STAY IN TUNISIA.



STAY AWAY FROM US !!!!



I COULDN'T STAND THE DISCRIMINATION I FACED IN TUNISIA SO I TRAVELLED BACK TO LIBYA.



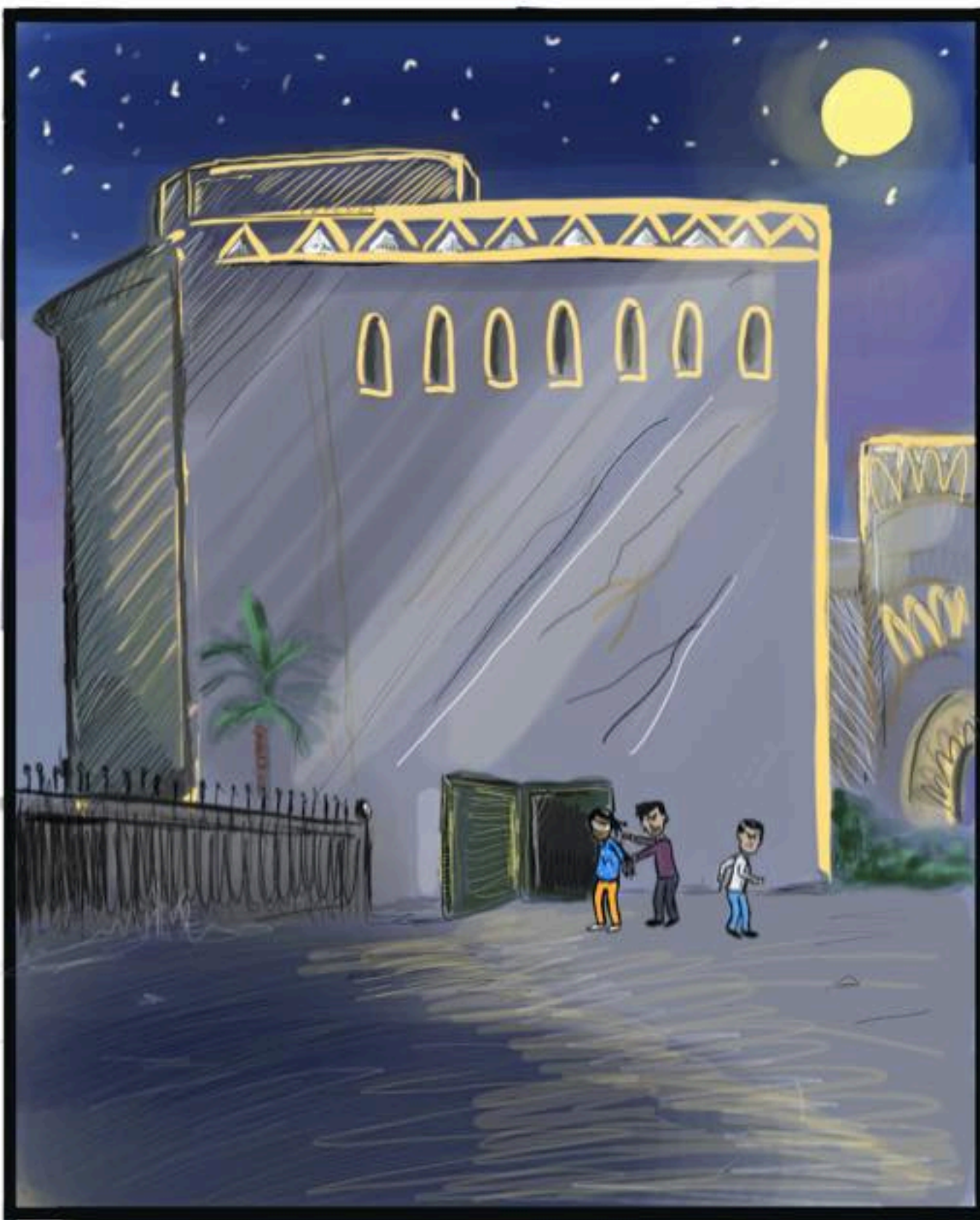


P-PLEASE  
DON'T H-HURT  
M-M-ME

SHUT UP OR  
WE WILL  
KILL YOU!!!

W-WHERE  
ARE THEY  
T-TAKING  
ME??

THIS  
GIRL WILL  
BE NICE FOR  
US!!!



I THOUGHT I WOULD BE SAFER IN LIBYA BUT I WAS KIDNAPPED .



WHY ARE THEY  
KEEPING US  
HERE?



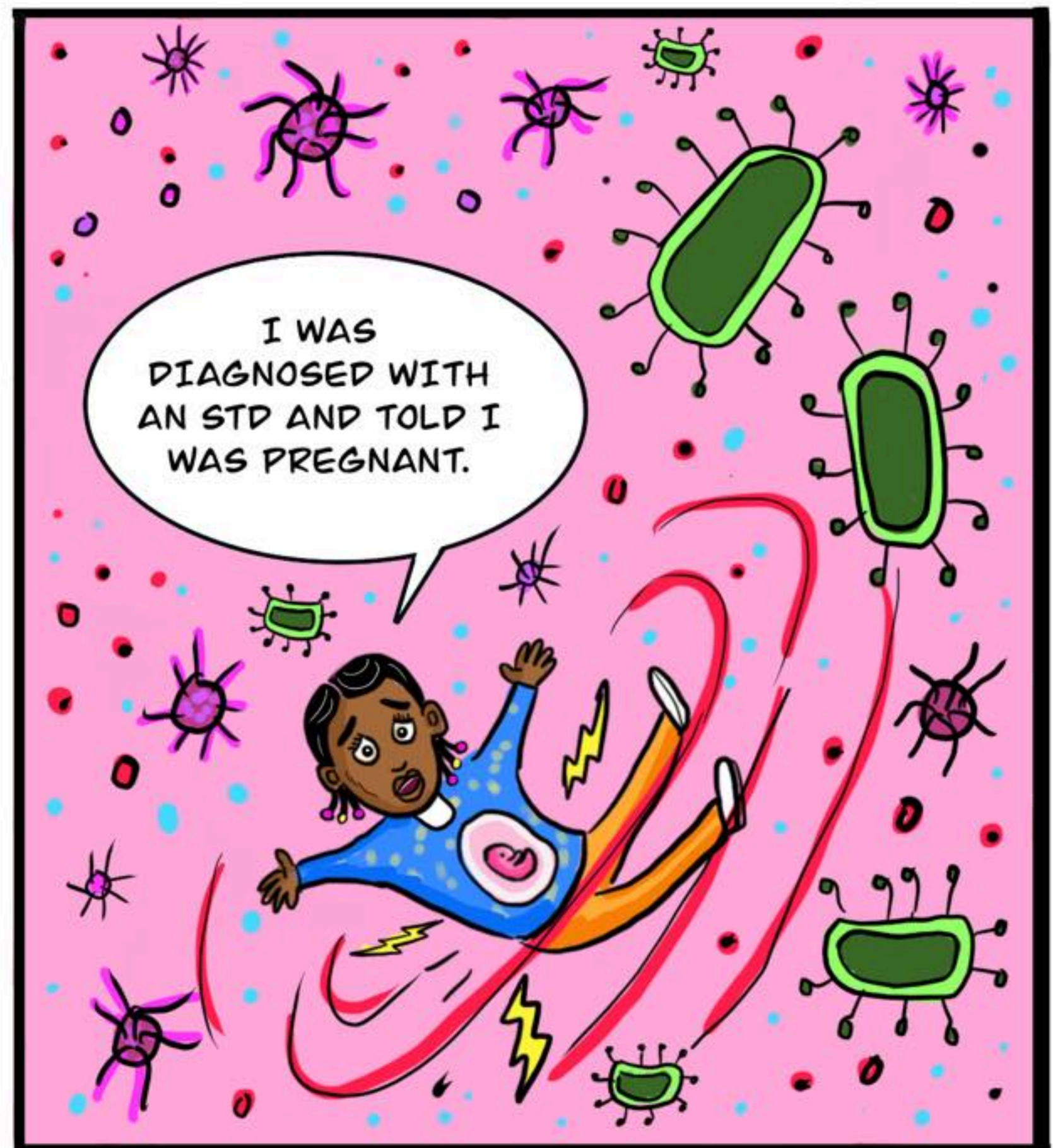
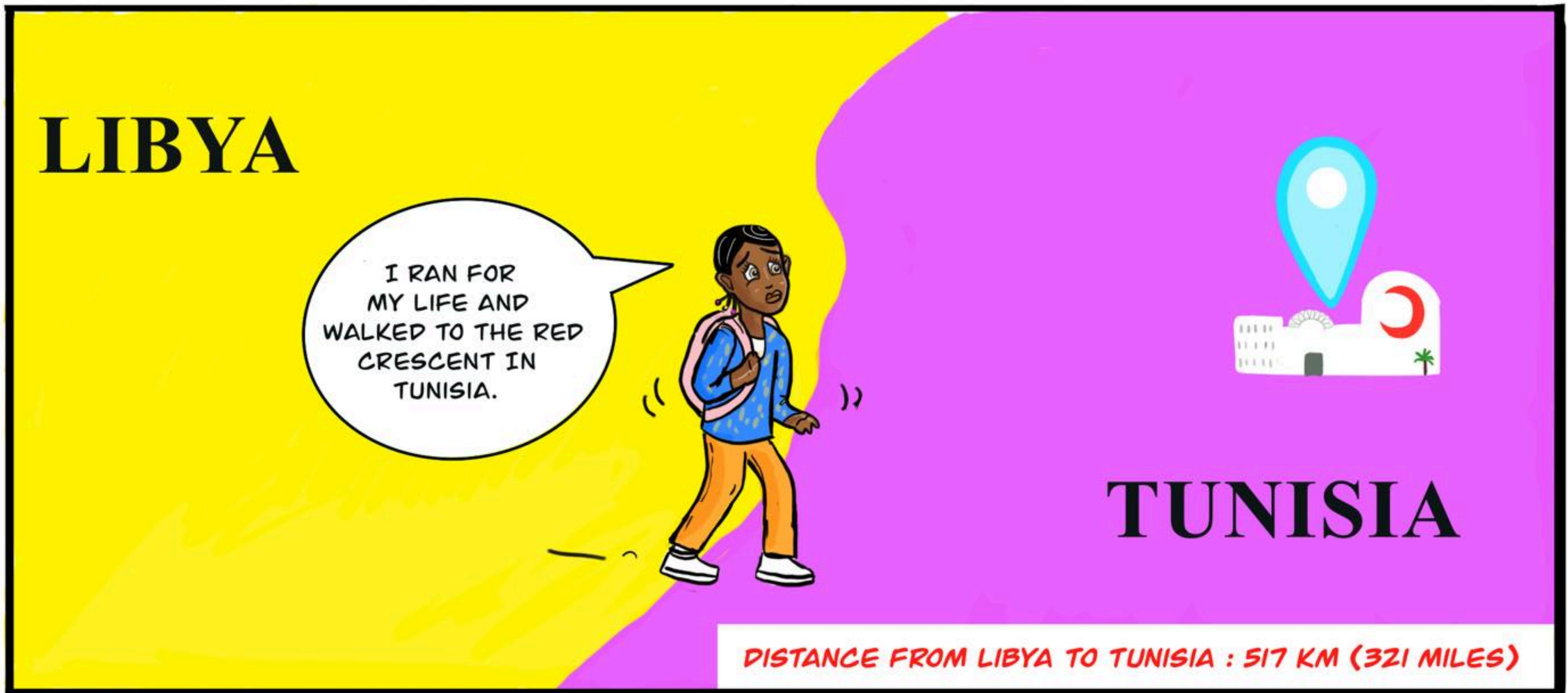
THERE WERE NO WINDOWS

I HAD TO GUESS WHEN TO PRAY

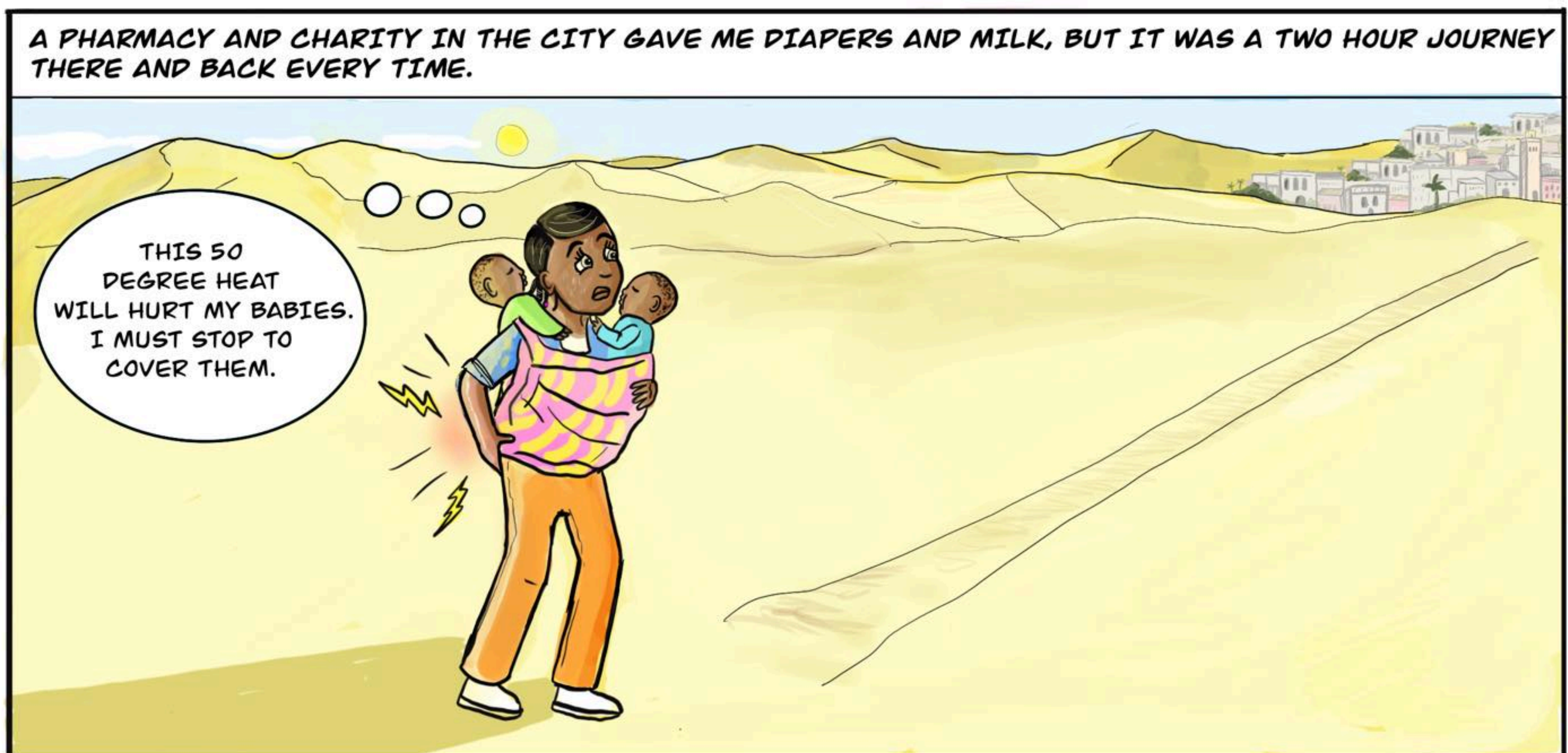
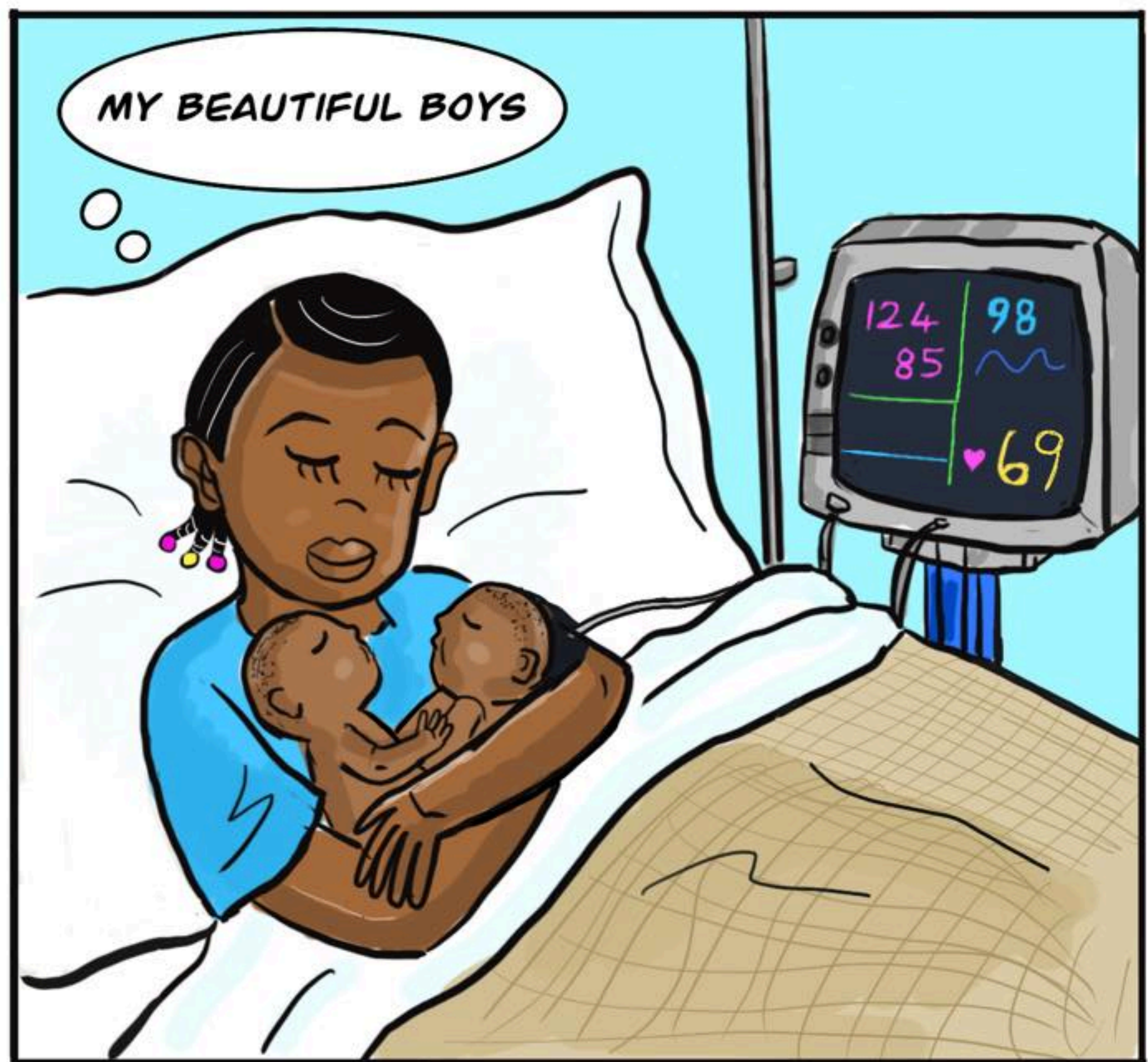
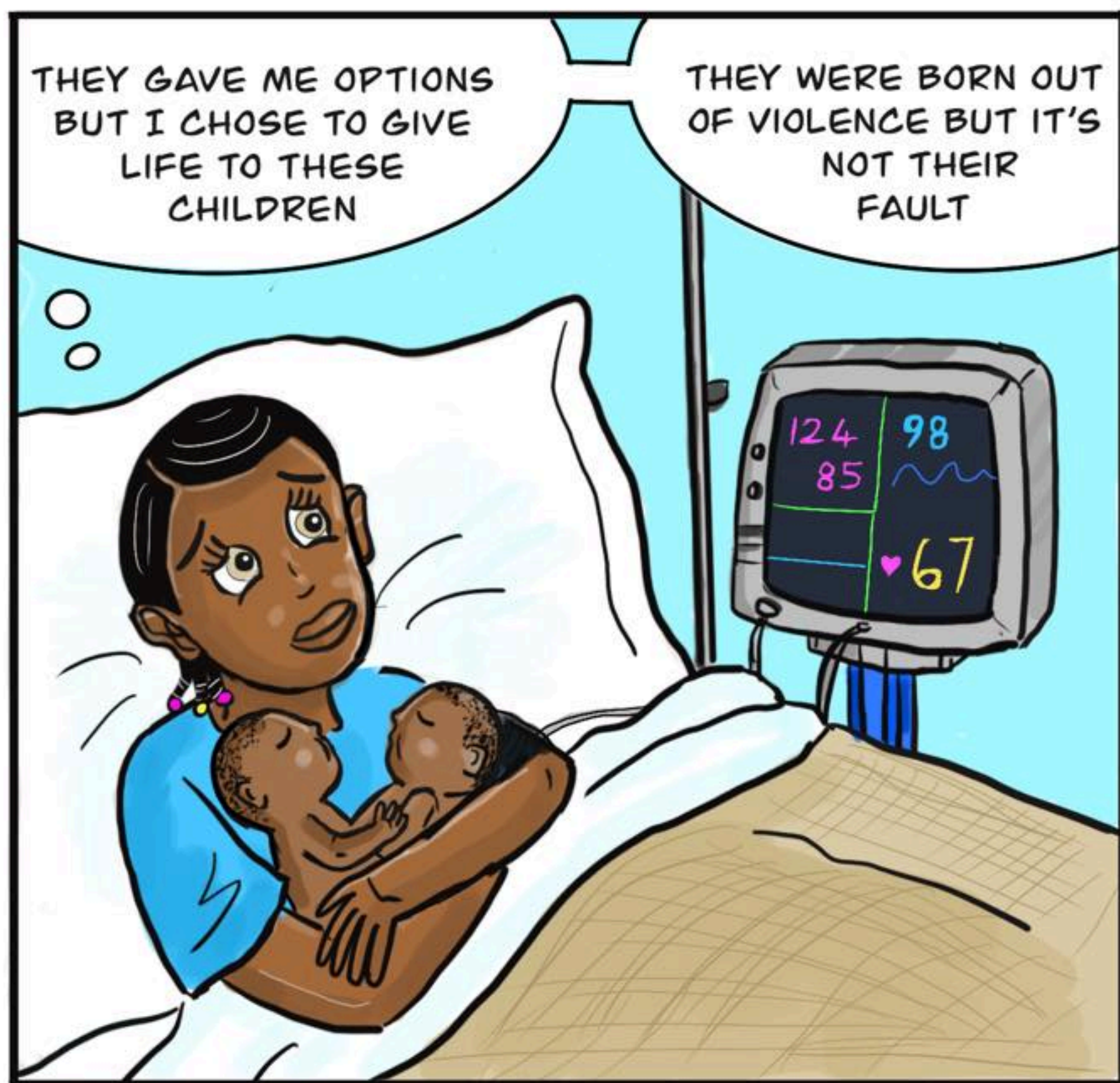


WE WERE USED OVER AND OVER AGAIN. MORE AND MORE MEN  
KEPT COMING. I HAD NO STRENGTH TO STAND UP.

I WANT...  
YOU!!







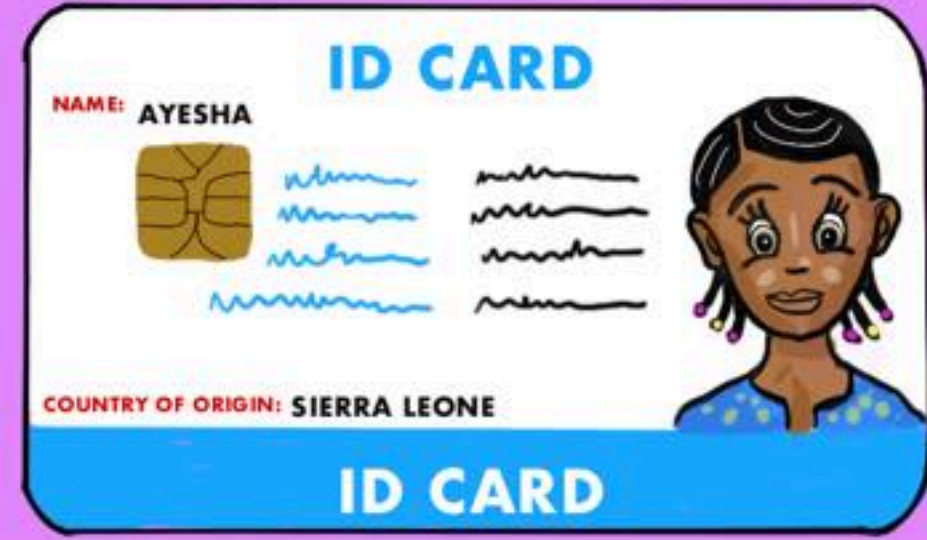
BUT I STILL ENDED UP IN DEBT.

HOW CAN I PAY THIS OFF?

I CANNOT WORK AND LEAVE MY BOYS ALONE. THERE IS ONLY ME TO LOOK AFTER THEM

I CAN'T TRUST ANYONE ANYMORE

I GOT UNHCR APPROVED STATUS AND BECAME A REFUGEE. I WAS NO LONGER A MIGRANT.



BUT THESE RIGHTS DIDN'T IMPROVE MY SITUATION AT ALL.

I LOVE MY BOYS VERY MUCH BUT I'M EXHAUSTED

I RAISE THEM ALONE, 24HRS A DAY, 365 DAYS A YEAR

WE'VE BEEN LIVING IN A REFUGEE SHELTER AND WAITING OVER THREE YEARS FOR RESETTLEMENT TO ANOTHER COUNTRY.

EVERYONE ELSE I KNOW HAS BEEN RE-ALLOCATED

WHY NOT ME? MY CASE-WORKER IS NOT SHARING INFORMATION WITH ME

I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO DO

MY BOYS ARE ISOLATED FROM OTHER CHILDREN AND HAVE IMPAIRED SPEECH.

YOUR CHILDREN ARE NOT FROM HERE!! THEY'RE NOT WELCOME AT THIS KINDERGARTEN!!

MY HEART IS BROKEN

I COULDN'T ISOLATE MYSELF DURING THE PANDEMIC. I GOT COVID AND WAS SICK FOR TWO MONTHS.

PEOPLE HAVE BECOME MORE HOSTILE TOWARDS ME SINCE THE PANDEMIC

YOU'RE REFUGEES!! GET VACCINATIONS FROM YOUR OWN COUNTRY!!

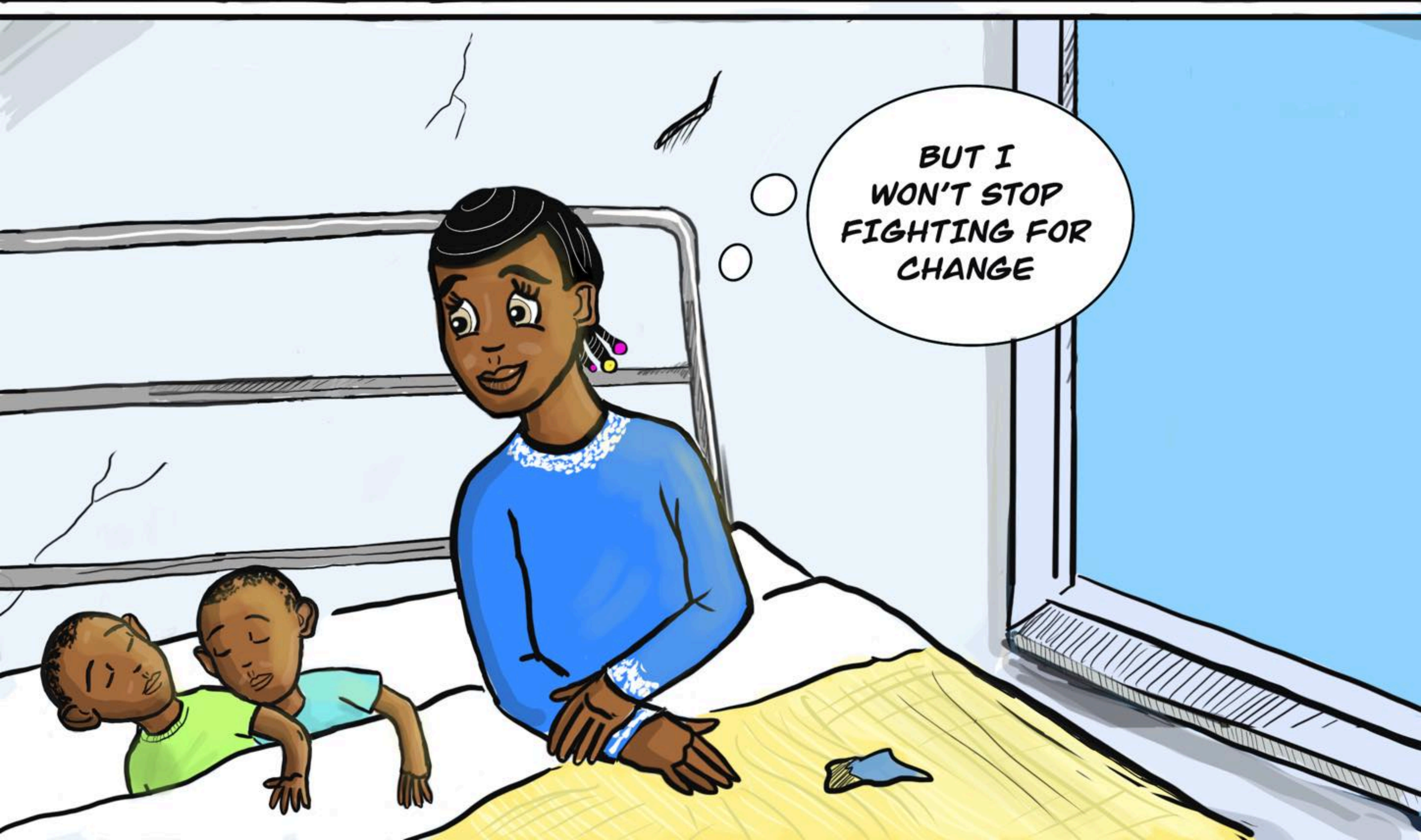
I CANNOT GO BACK TO SIERRA LEONE.

MAYBE THE BOYS AND I CAN TAKE A BOAT TO EUROPE.

BUT IT'S SO DANGEROUS. MANY PEOPLE DIED WHEN I TRIED TO CROSS BEFORE



I WANT A BETTER LIFE FOR MY CHILDREN AND I. I DIDN'T WANT TO LIVE A LIFE WHERE I WAS EXPECTED TO HARM OTHERS, SO I FLED MY COUNTRY. BUT INSTEAD OF FINDING HAPPINESS, I HAVE EXPERIENCED SO MUCH PAIN, VIOLENCE AND TRAUMA.



# AYESHA'S STORY

AYESHA'S STORY IS ONE AMONG MANY WOMEN STUCK IN FORCED DISPLACEMENT AND FACING MULTIPLE STRESSORS, E.G. TRAUMA, LACK OF WORK AND EDUCATION PROSPECTS. URGENT ACTIONS ARE NEEDED TO ENHANCE PROTECTION OF FORCED MIGRANTS FROM VIOLENCE AND EXPLOITATION.

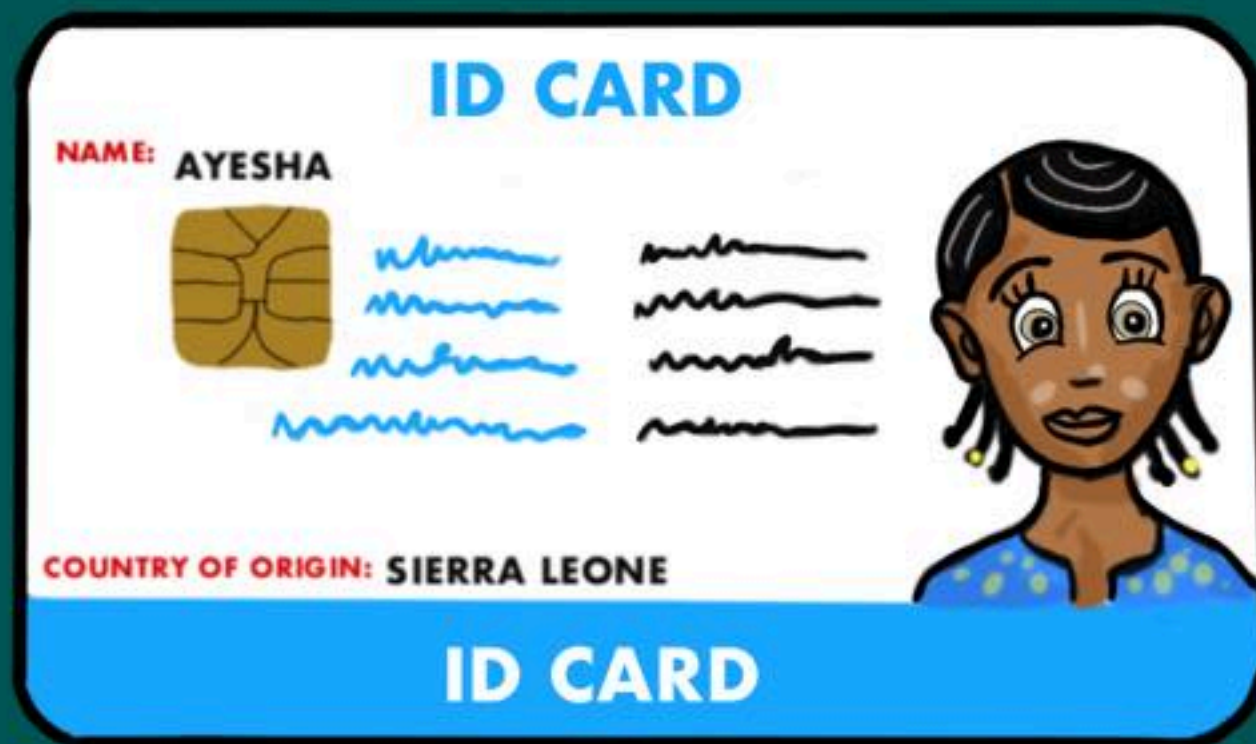
WE CALL ON GOVERNMENTS AND SERVICE PROVIDERS TO:

- RECOGNISE THE SGBV-RELATED TRAUMA FORCED MIGRANTS DEAL WITH DURING THEIR JOURNEY AND OFFER RELEVANT MENTAL HEALTH AND PSYCHO-SOCIAL SUPPORT FOR HEALING OF VICTIMS
- ENHANCE PRE AND POST PROTECTION ON THE MOVE WITH MOBILE HEALTHCARE, CONTRACEPTION AND PROPHYLAXIS FOR FORCED MIGRANTS ON THE MOVE
- ENABLE LIVELIHOOD OPPORTUNITIES FOR SELF-RELIANCE AND REDUCTION OF AID DEPENDENCY AMONG FORCED MIGRANTS TO MITIGATE SGBV VULNERABILITIES
- ENABLE FORCED MIGRANTS TO CONTRIBUTE TO COUNTRIES OF REFUGE WITH THE RIGHT TO WORK AND STUDY



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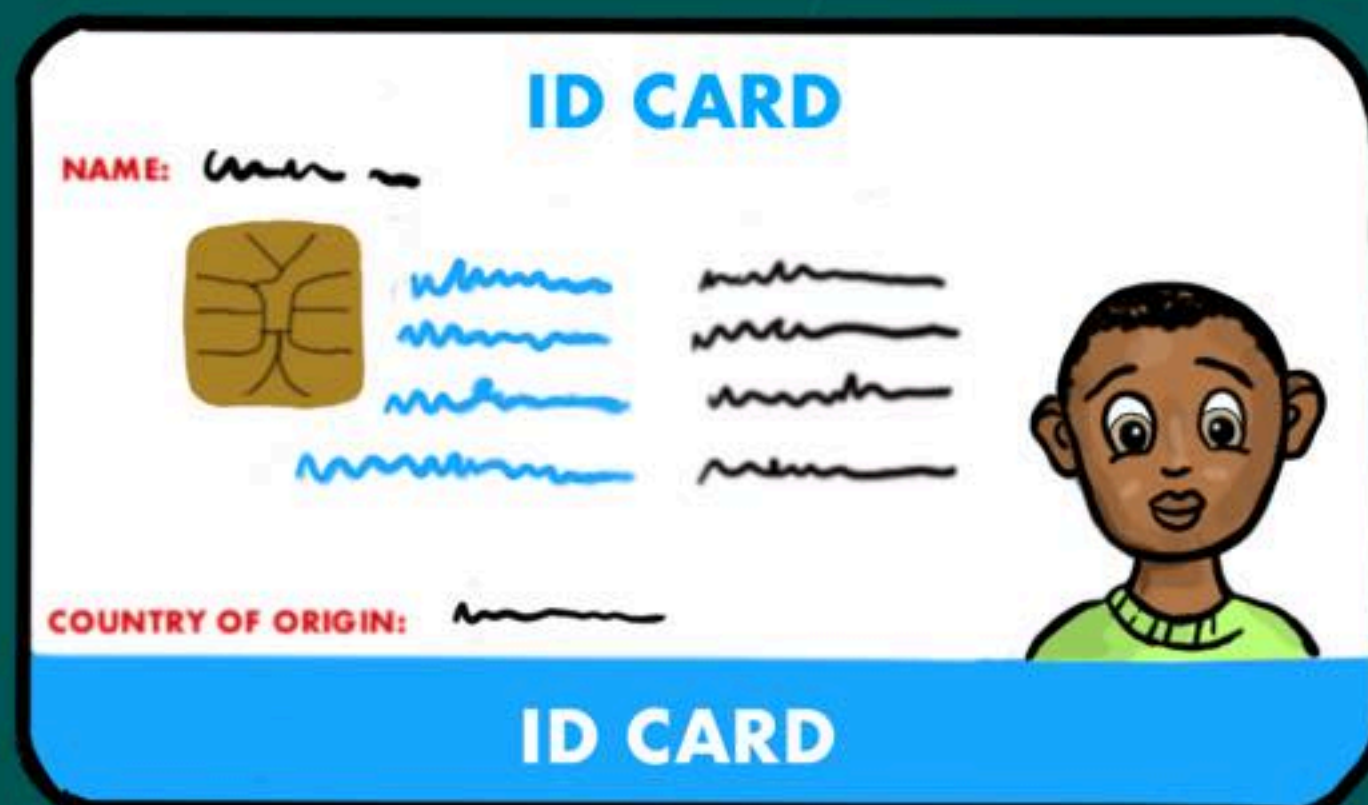
# GET HELP



## HELPFUL LINKS :

IF YOU HAVE BEEN AFFECTED BY SGBV ( SEXUAL AND GENDER BASED VIOLENCE) YOU CAN FIND INFORMATION ON WHERE TO SEEK SUPPORT IN BELGIUM, BULGARIA, CROATIA, GREECE, HUNGARY, IRELAND, ITALY, MALTA, THE NETHERLANDS, POLAND, SLOVENIA AND SPAIN.

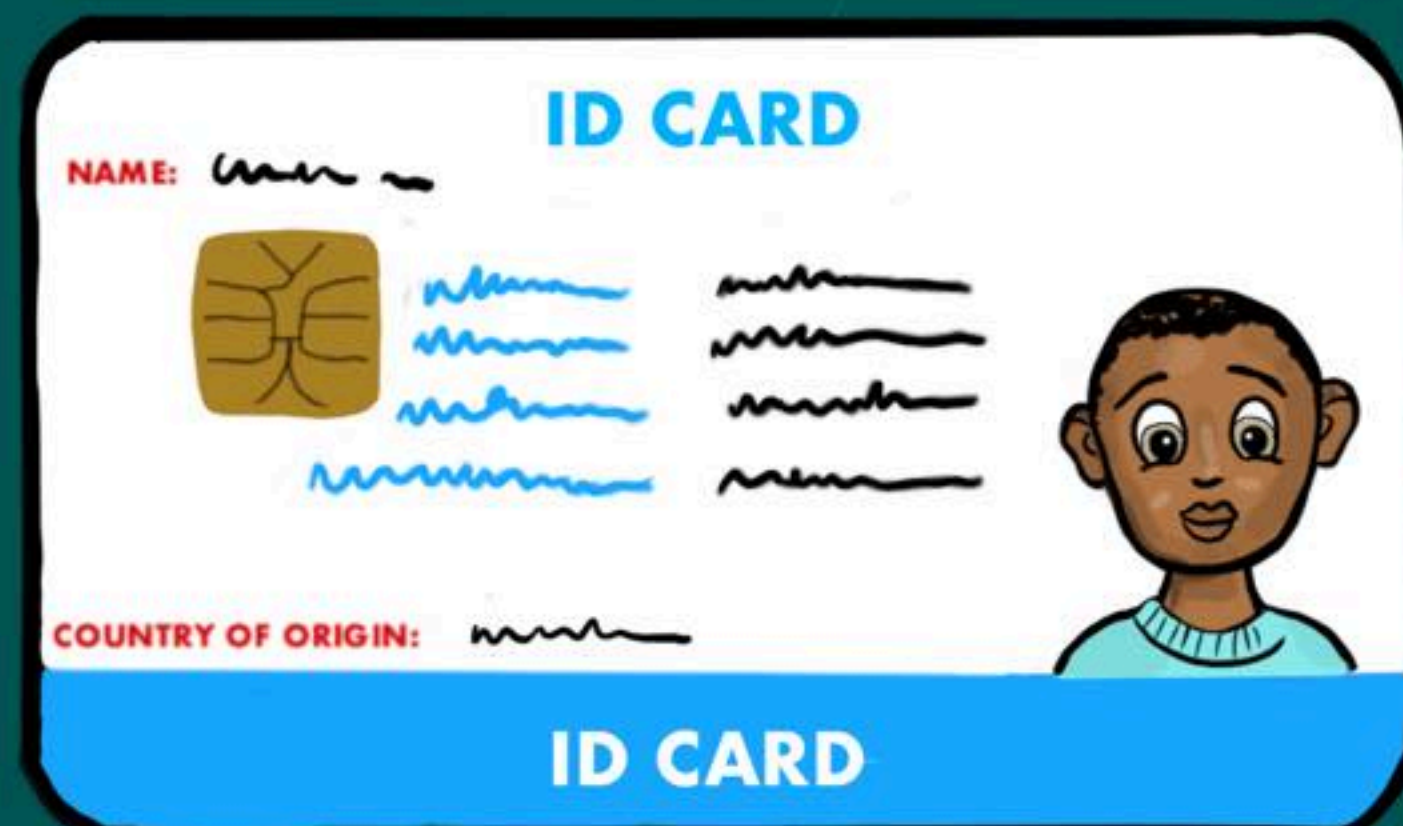
<http://hungary.iom.int/sgbv>



## HELPFUL LINKS:

**UK:**

<http://womensaid.org.uk/the-survivors-handbook/immigration/>



## HELPFUL LINKS:

**TURKEY:**

[yimer.gov.tr/EN/SSS](http://yimer.gov.tr/EN/SSS)

**TUNISIA:**

<http://help.unhcr.org/tunisia/services-in-tunisia/sexual-and-gender-based-violence/>



AYESHA'S STORY



# AYESHA'S STORY

THE UNTOLD MIGRANT STORIES TEAM WISHES TO THANK THE VICTIMS AND SERVICE PROVIDERS WHO PARTICIPATED IN THE STUDY, AS WELL AS THE PROJECT FUNDER -UZI. SPECIAL THANKS TO AYESHA FOR SHARING HER STORY AND TO EMMA BROWN FOR ILLUSTRATING THE COMIC.

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SEE OTHER STORIES AT :

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

CHECK OUT THE SEREDA PROJECT :

<http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/research/superdiversity-institute/sereda/index.aspx>



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