



# DONOR APPEAL

**Support Threads of Transformation Documentary**  
*A Story of Hope, Healing, and Human Connection from  
Goma, DRC*





# THE VISION



We invite you to support a 15-minute documentary that captures the resilience of six young tailoring apprentices, former child soldiers and other youth affected by conflict and displacement, living in one of the world's most challenging environments. Filmed in November 2024, just before the M23 militia's incursion into Goma, it preserves a vital moment of hope and transformation amidst ongoing unrest.

Threads of Transformation follows these six young survivors as they participate in an innovative program, revealing how fashion, creativity and community can flourish even in the face of unimaginable adversity. The timing of this footage makes it especially poignant and urgent: these are the voices and stories of young people who have endured conflict, displacement, and trauma, yet continue to dream, create, and rebuild their lives against all odds.



# THE STORY

This film follows six young apprentices in Goma, former child soldiers and other youth deeply affected by conflict and displacement, as they participate in a therapeutic transnational design program led by fashion designer Saskia Lenaerts through Business for Better Society.

The documentary reveals their daily journey, literally and figuratively, as they travel from their homes through the streets of Goma to the sewing studio, where they're not just learning fashion design, but reclaiming their identities, expressing their dreams, and building resilience through creative expression.

The project represents a groundbreaking approach that transforms military garments, symbols of past trauma, into symbols of hope and healing while providing practical skills training, therapeutic support, and community reintegration.

Through intimate interviews, hands-on workshops, and powerful musical expressions, the film captures how creativity becomes a catalyst for personal transformation and recovery from the profound impacts of war, displacement, and trauma.





# THE IMPACT

## **AMPLIFYING SURVIVOR VOICES**

The film centres the perspectives, dreams, and aspirations of apprentices who have lived through war, child soldiering, and displacement, ensuring their stories of recovery and transformation are told with dignity and authenticity.

## **DOCUMENTING HEALING INNOVATION**

It captures a unique model of trauma-informed therapeutic design intervention specifically addressing the complex needs of youth impacted by conflict, demonstrating how creative practices can support reintegration and healing.

## **BREAKING STIGMA**

The film creates connections between international audiences and the realities of youth rehabilitation in conflict-affected areas, fostering understanding while challenging stereotypes and promoting dignity for survivors.

## **REPLICATION POTENTIAL**

The documentary will serve as a powerful resource for organisations, governments, and communities working on post-conflict recovery and youth reintegration programs worldwide.

## **FUNDRAISING TOOL**

The completed documentary will also serve as a operational fundraising tool for both Business for Better Society and Remember Youth for Change, helping them to expand and strengthen their ongoing work with communities in need.



# FUNDING NEED

We are seeking to raise a total of \$10,000 USD to complete our documentary. All funds raised will go directly towards editing, translation of interviews into English, and other post-production costs:

**Professional Translation Services:** Converting French and Swahili interviews into accurate English subtitles so these powerful stories reach international audiences.

**Expert Editing:** 12–15 days of professional editing to craft a compelling narrative that honors the participants' experiences.

**Post-Production Excellence:** Colour correction, sound design, and technical finishing to ensure the film's impact matches the power of its content.

**Distribution Preparation:** Final formatting for multiple platforms and screenings worldwide.





# SCREENING PLANS



Our distribution strategy is designed to ensure the documentary reaches both influential and diverse audiences. We plan to premiere the film in London at the Royal Society of Arts, Manufactures and Commerce, engaging policymakers, educators, and community leaders in dialogue about youth resilience and post-conflict recovery.

In addition, we will submit the film to leading international documentary and human rights festivals such as IDFA (Amsterdam), Hot Docs (Toronto), Human Rights Watch Film Festival (London/New York), and the Geneva International Film Festival. While festival participation is subject to competitive selection, these platforms offer powerful opportunities for global visibility and recognition.

Beyond festivals, we will organise targeted community screenings, work with academic institutions and humanitarian organisations to integrate the film into their programming, and release it online through partner networks to ensure lasting accessibility.



# PARTNER WITH US

Your generous donation will help complete and share these vital stories of resilience and healing. Every gift, large or small, brings us closer to reaching a global audience and driving meaningful change.

- Friend of Threads — \$100+
  - Name or organisation listed in the film credits as a valued supporter
- Champion of Change — \$2,000+
  - Name or organisation listed in the film credits as a valued supporter
  - Logo or name featured in promotional materials for screening events
- Ambassador of Hope — \$7,500+
  - All Champion of Change benefits, plus:
  - Prominent logo placement in the film credits as a key supporter
  - Special acknowledgement at premiere
  - Recognition in press releases and social media during the film's distribution campaign
  - Early access to the completed documentary for internal purposes



# THE TEAM

## **SASKIA LENAERTS**

Visionary designer whose work with military garments has evolved into transformative therapeutic design practices. In addition to her own label, SASKIA, she has worked on her own label as well as for major labels such as Burberry and Alexander McQueen, and also teaches in the fashion program at Kingston College in London.

## **VITORIA DE MELLO FRANCO**

Vitoria is a filmmaker and visual artist whose work bridges contemporary art, fashion, and experimental storytelling. Her films, such as GOLA and Divinas, have been shown at major fashion film and art platforms, including Moda Lisboa, Tokyo Fashion Week, and Fashion Film Festival Milano, where GOLA won Best Music. She is known for roles including direction, art direction, editing, casting, sound design, and styling, bringing a hands-on, multidisciplinary approach and deep sensitivity to the subject matter.

## **KELLY BRANTNER**

Kelly has served as Chief Executive Officer of Business for Better Society since 2018, bringing over 20 years of operational and brand development experience to the organization. She previously served as Executive Director of Asian Operations for Rutgers Business School. As a Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts, Manufacturers and Commerce, she combines her extensive international business experience with a commitment to social impact, leading BBS in its mission to create sustainable solutions for global challenges.

## **BIENVENU KAMWENDO**

Bienve founded Remember Youth For Change (RYC) after a pivotal encounter with a doctor at a local hospital who didn't know where to send unaccompanied children arriving with bullet wounds. Through RYC, he provides mentorship, sports teams, and small jobs around the farm, believing that when at-risk children can achieve financial independence, they become less susceptible to depression, self-destructive behavior, and re-recruitment into conflict. Based in Goma, DRC, his work addresses the critical gap between immediate and long-term rehabilitation for young victims of violence.



## Contact Details

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