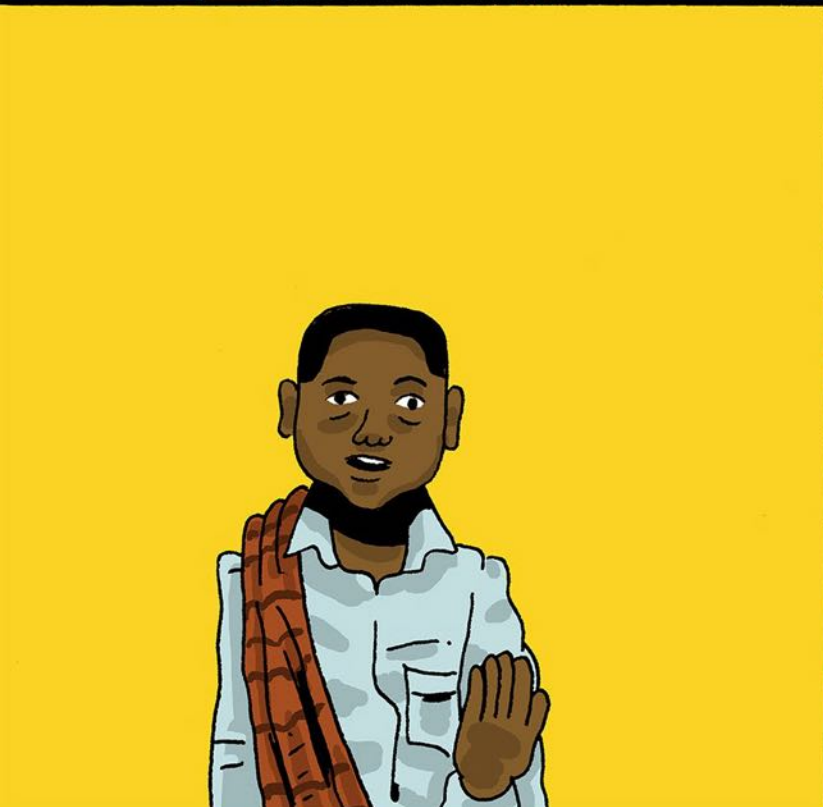
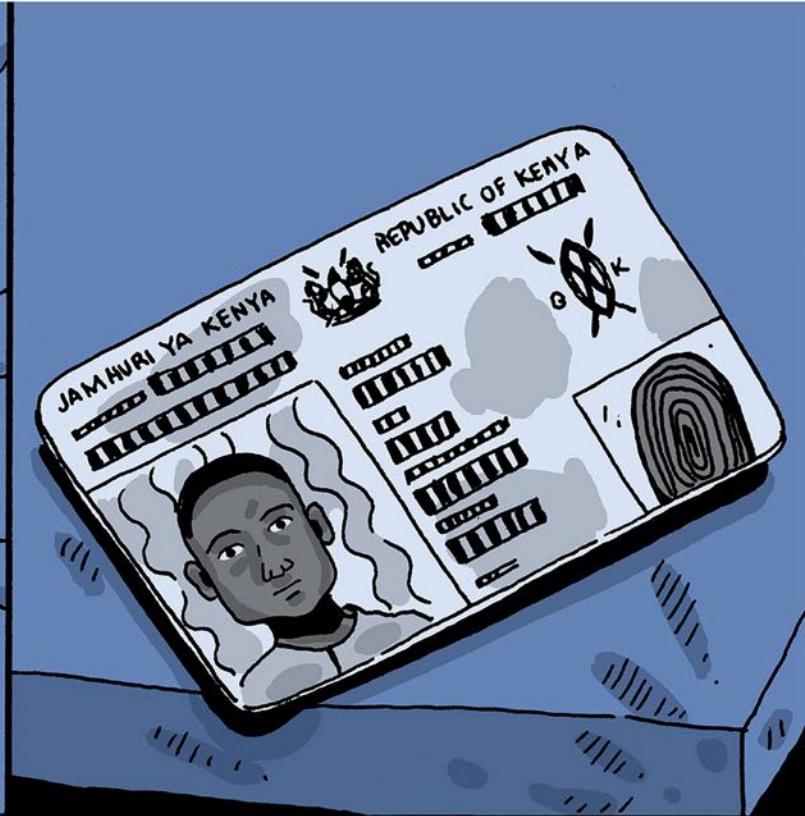


# Modern Slavery - Kenya

No Identity, No Protection: No one knows I am here



**Freedom Fund  
Modern Slavery  
Credits**

*Kenya*

*Produced with research from*  
African Migration and Development Policy Centre, United Nations University Centre for Policy  
Research and the Freedom Fund

*Researchers - Kenya*

In Kenya, coordination was led by Dr. Linda Adhiambo Oucho, Veronica Mwangi, with support from Faith Wanjiku of AZADI Community, Peter Olewe of AZADI Community and David Muthama of the Refugee Legal Network.

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*Special Thanks to*

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*Stories Drawn from Research*

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Within Kenya there are many people vulnerable to modern slavery. As well as Kenyans themselves, these include members of migrant and refugee communities...



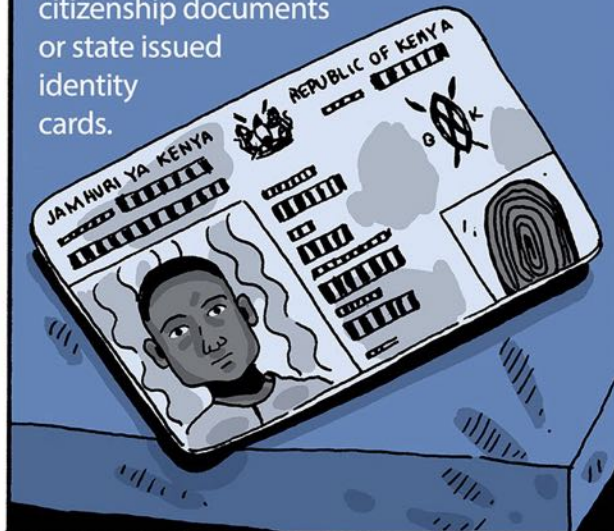
The migrant communities come from the diverse ethnic and cultural backgrounds of East Africa.



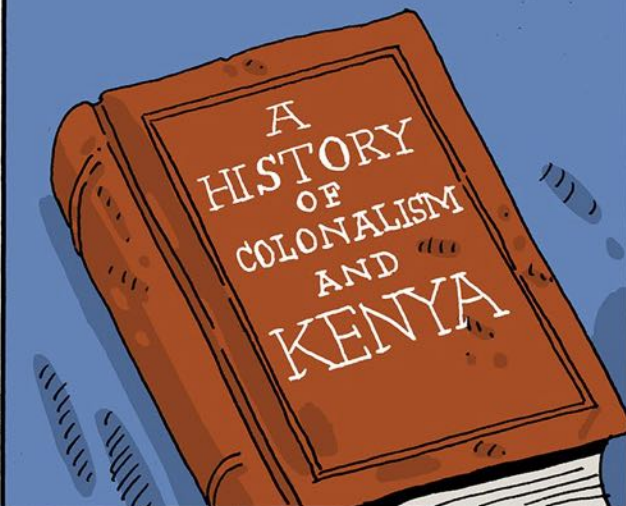
Including Eritrea, Ethiopia, Sudan and Somalia.



Many Kenyans and migrants have experienced issues in accessing citizenship documents or state issued identity cards.



Some of these difficulties are historic...



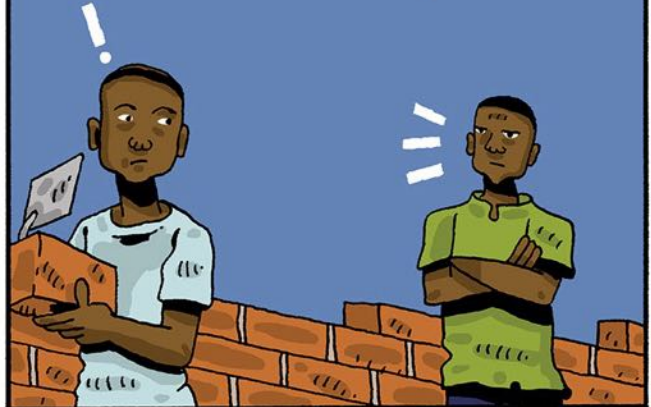
...and delays are compounded by long vetting and verification processes



The lack of these documents has a profound impact on the lives of those affected.



Without documents, people are forced into insecure, often exploitative labour roles in the informal economy.



Bureaucratic processes...

...misinterpretation of the law...



...and discriminative application of the law, compound these issues, placing people without documents at risk of modern slavery.



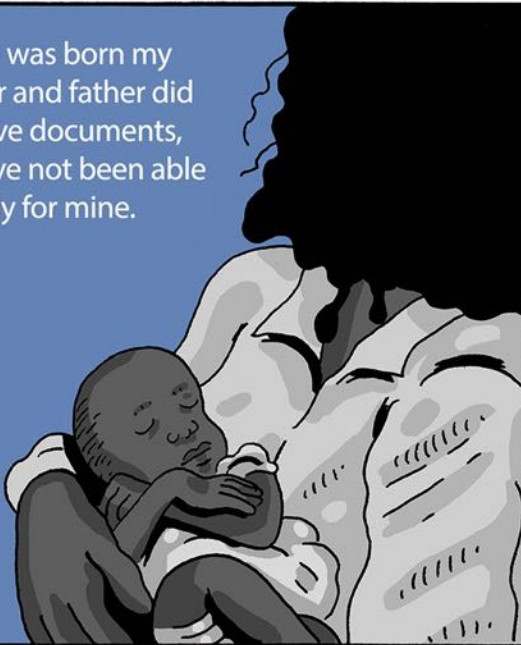
I am 34, I am from Kenya. It is the only country I have ever known, I work washing peoples clothes.



I am the 4th generation of my family that has been without documents, even though we have always lived in Kenya.



When I was born my mother and father did not have documents, so I have not been able to apply for mine.



Washing people's clothes, or cleaning their houses is the only work available to me.



People are able to take advantage of me, but what choice do I have other than to do this work?



I am not treated well by the people I work for.



They mistreat me because I have no way of proving that I am Kenyan.



In the past I have been sexually abused by people I work for. I did not tell the authorities, I do not trust that they would help me.



I work very long hours, sometimes for no pay.



The people I work for, they refuse to pay me...

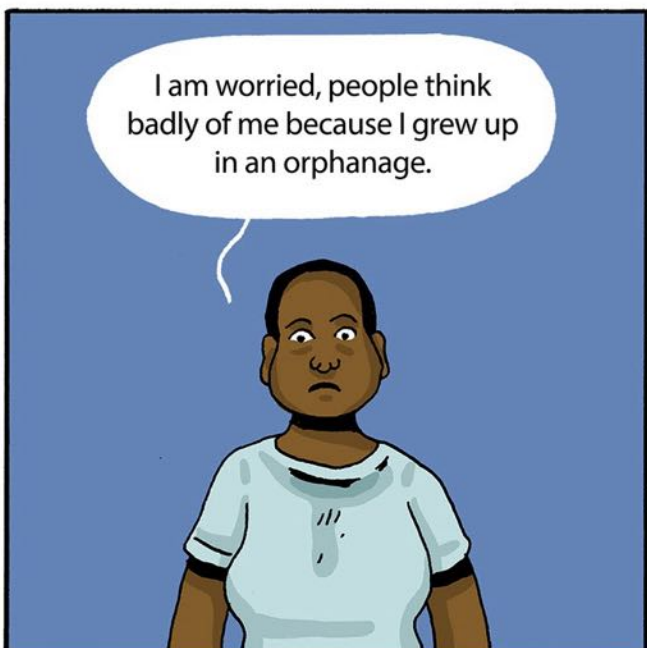
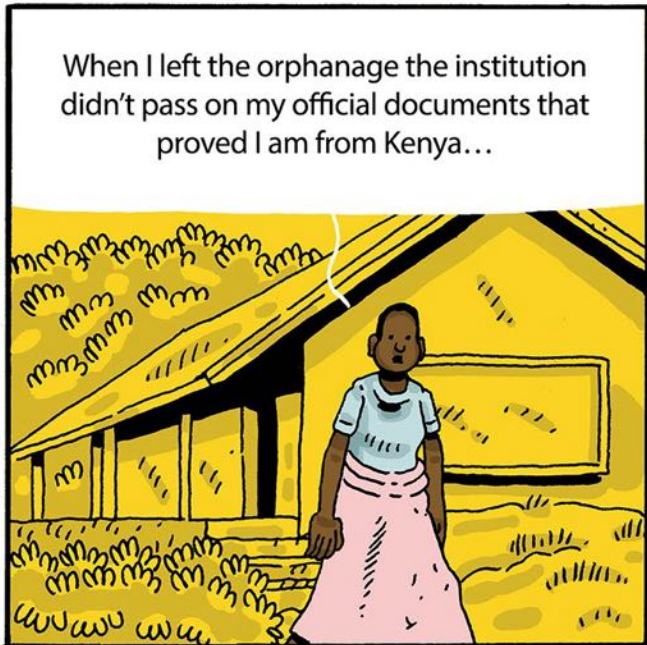
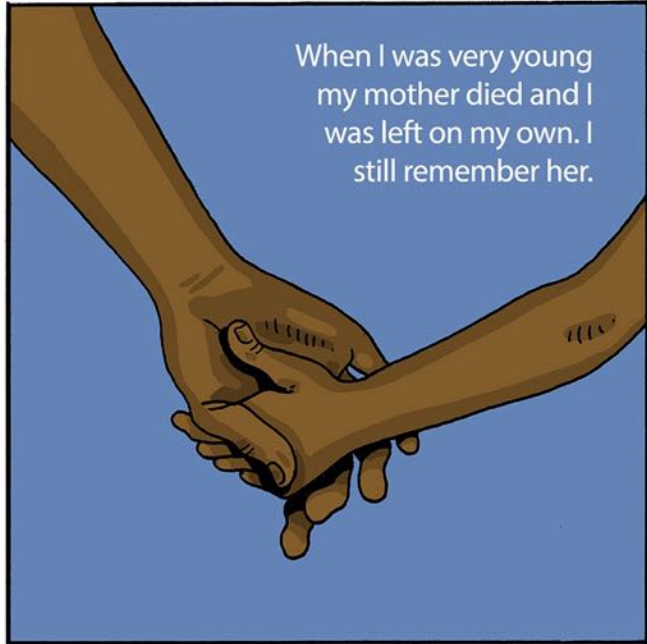


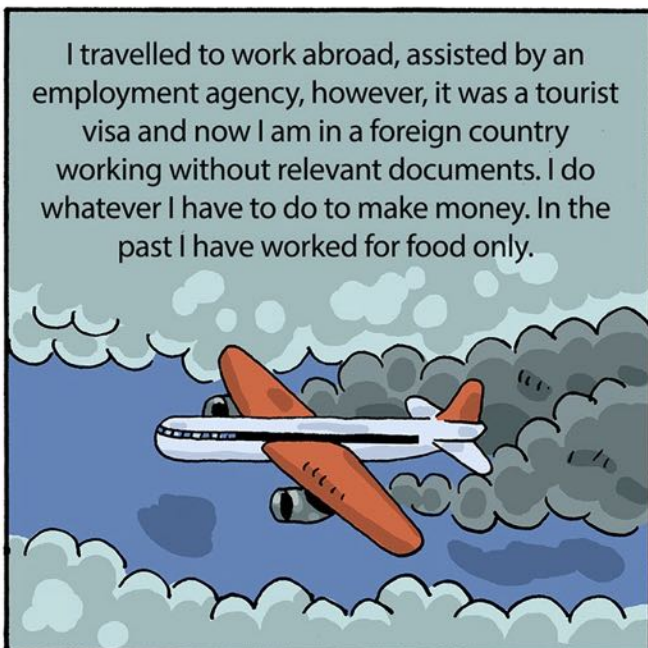
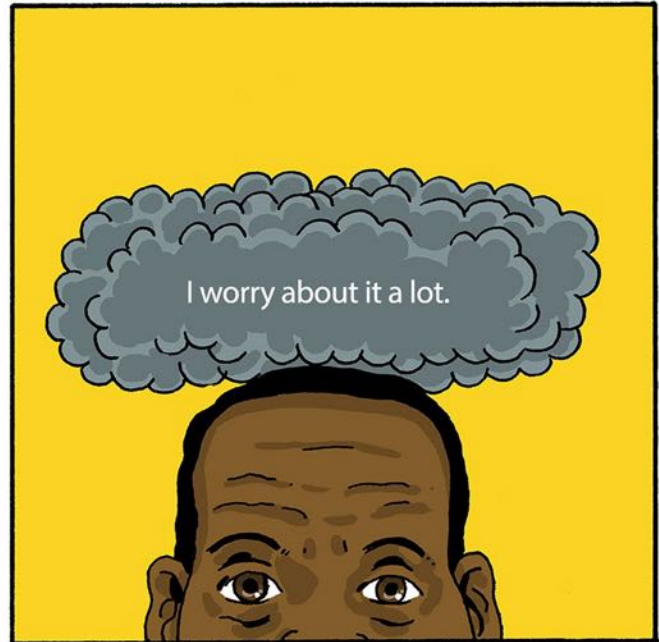
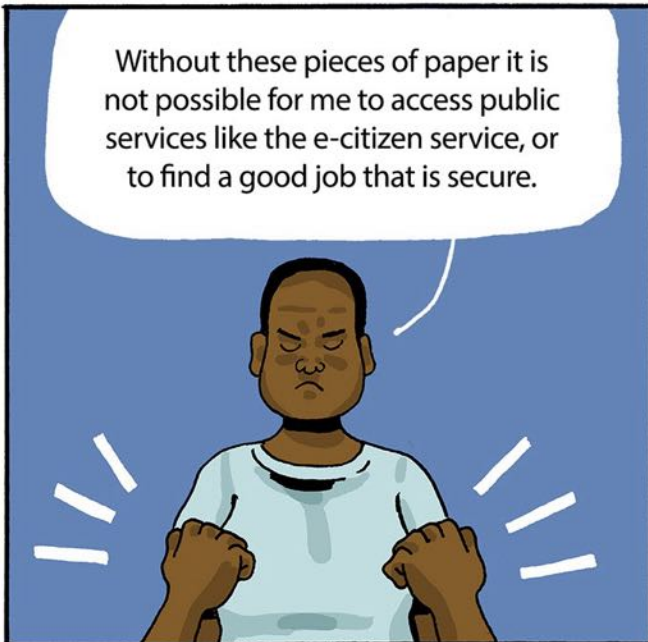
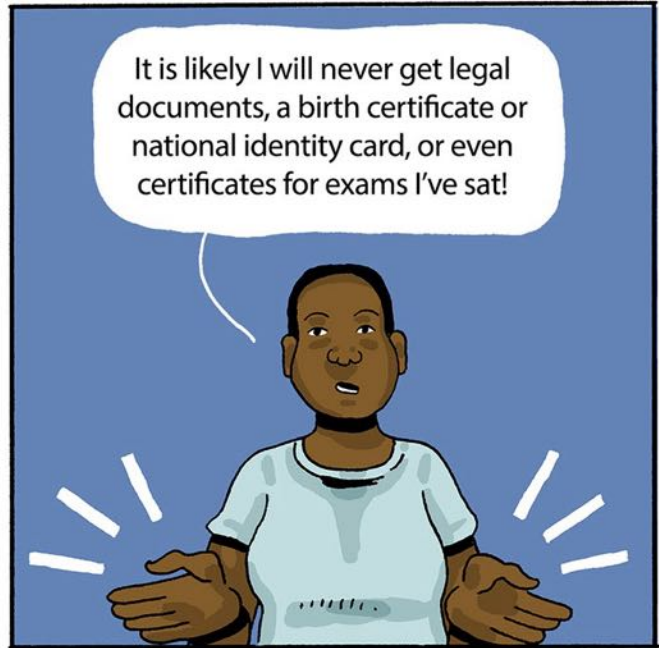
...And when I complain, they tell me that they can do what they like...



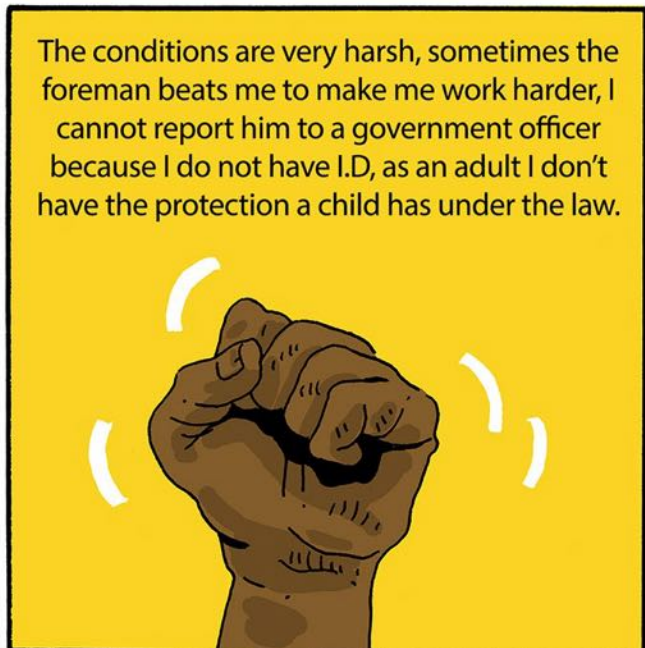
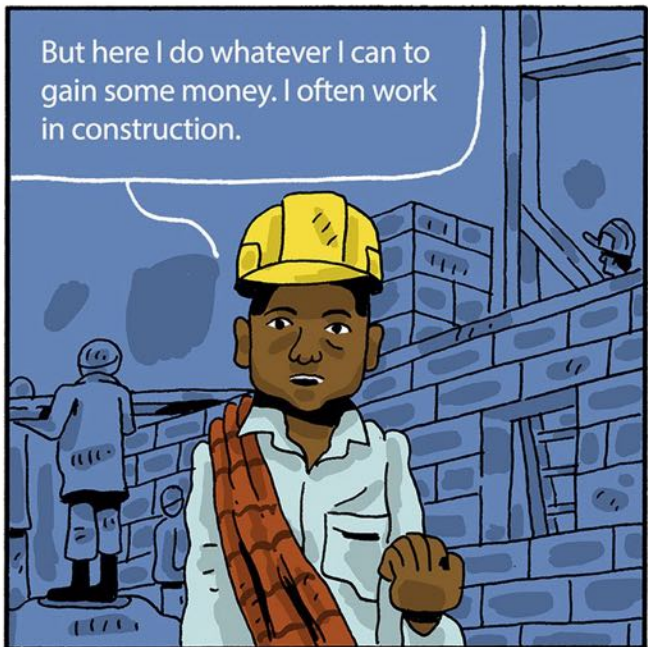
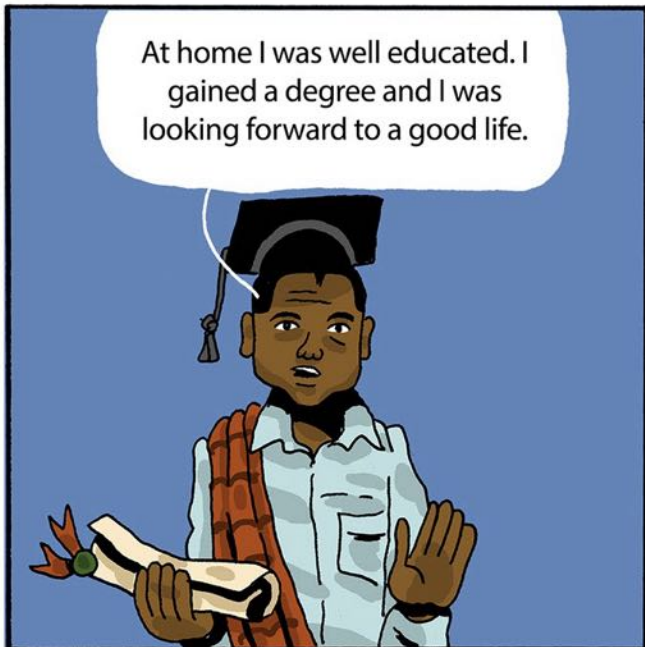
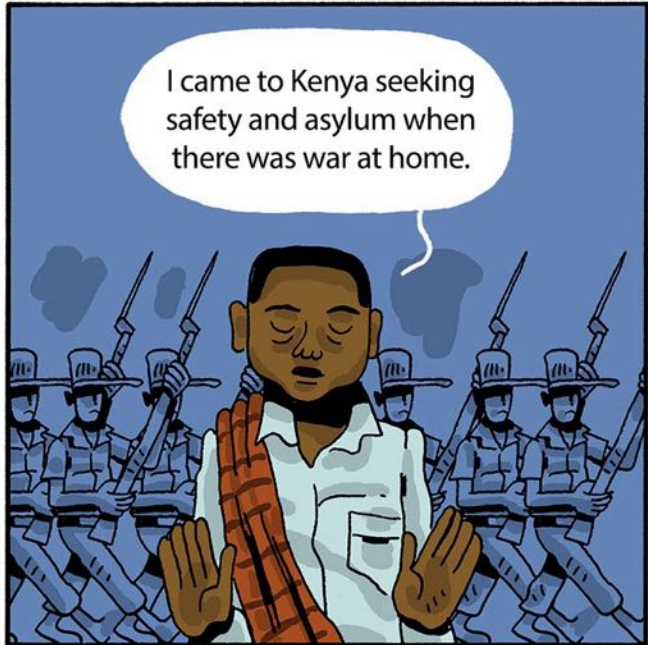
Because they say no-one knows I am here.



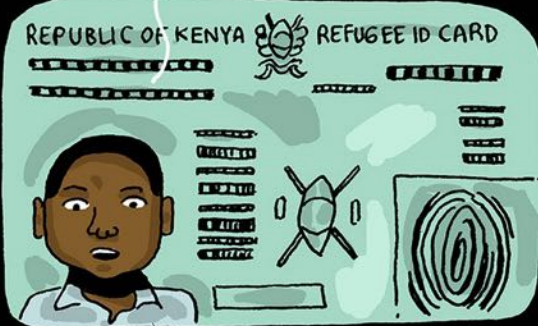




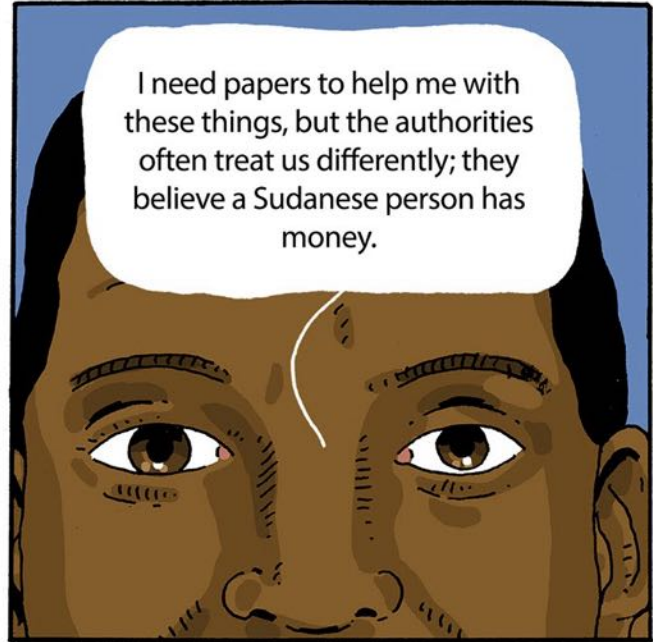




I cannot get a formal job although I have proof of registration as an asylum seeker, but I have no refugee I.D.



I need papers to help me with these things, but the authorities often treat us differently; they believe a Sudanese person has money.



I've tried applying for I.D, but the bureaucrat keeps asking me for different documents, some of which are not required in law. I wish I could just live my life but I need official papers so I can work.



This comic has been illustrated by **Daniel Locke** and produced by **PositiveNegatives** from research undertaken by the **African Migration and Development Policy Centre (AMADPOC)**, and **United Nations University Centre for Policy Research**, in partnership with the **Freedom Fund**.

The research in Kenya shows how a lack of access to official documentation among nationals and displaced individuals can increase their vulnerability to modern slavery. The research shows that this lack of official documentation obstructs access to essential services and exacerbates exploitation risks. It proposes effective policy interventions that address these interconnected socio-economic challenges.

*You can learn more about the findings of the research in the full report entitled "No Identity No Protection: How lack of documentation drives modern slavery."*

