

This is the testimony of Adria, a survivor of the Rwandan genocide

I am 28 years old and live in Nyamirambo with my 5 year old child. Before the genocide we were a family of 9 girls. My family had everything going for them. I can't forget my father's happiness when I married.

I married my late husband in January 1994, genocide struck during early April. My husband and I went to hide with our parents. About 30 members of our family stayed together while the killings went on around us. We gave *interahamwe* money so they left us alone.

But we ran out of money and couldn't hold them off for long. During the month of June, *interahamwe* came. They took my husband and killed him. I was 8 months pregnant. Then another group came and took both my parents and my husband's family and killed them. I was then raped and left bleeding. I thought I would lose my baby, luckily I didn't.

I was rescued in July and I live with my son and a surviving brother. Life will never be the same again.

My 7 sisters survived, not surprising, because *interahamwe* needed Tutsi girls to humiliate. We all know that we were sexually abused but we never discuss our feelings. How can we?

I run a small tailoring business, I live in my husband's house and do not have to pay rent, I take home 15,000 RWF per month (£30). AVEGA has been supportive, at times when things are tough AVEGA gives me food aid to keep me going and gives me advice which helps me to pick myself up and focus on looking after my surviving child.

Today's Reading of the Testimonies marks the 15th Anniversary of the Rwandan genocide, in support of survivors like Adria.

