



Dear all,

Today, we observe United Nation's World Day Against Trafficking in Persons. Many of you have helped us rebuilt the lives of several women and their children who were caught in the web of trafficking and its effects. We dedicate this edition to bringing out their stories, struggles and their voices. *Let's know more and do more.*

What? Why? Who?

WHAT?

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HUMAN TRAFFICKING

WHY?

They are trafficked for the purpose of sexual exploitation, forced labour, domestic servitude, child begging or the removal of their organs.

HUMAN TRAFFICKING

WHO?

Traffickers target victims who are marginalized or in difficult circumstances. Undocumented migrants and people who are in desperate need of employment are also vulnerable, particularly to trafficking for forced labour.

HUMAN TRAFFICKING

Human Trafficking FAQs

What is human trafficking?

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Who are trafficked?

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Why are they trafficked?

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Did You Know?



In 2020, COVID-19 led to the global economic downturn and this recession, according to experts, can increase inequality in the global level and within countries. This plays a great role in increasing human trafficking across the world.

According to the 489 cases collected by UNODC for the Global Report of Trafficking in Persons 2020, in 51% of cases, traffickers used the economic needs of the victims to lure them. According to the report, “the general deterioration of economic conditions resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic will likely increase the numbers of people at risk of being targeted by traffickers.”

20% - Child with a dysfunctional family

13% - Intimate partner as trafficker

10% - Mental, behavioural and neurological disorder

10% - Immigration status

9% - Child deprived of parental care

6% - Limited education or knowledge of foreign language

3% - Physical disability

Source: GLOTIP report



The banner features a black and white photograph of several hands of different skin tones cupped together in a circle, palms facing up. Overlaid on the left side of the hands is the text "WORLD DAY AGAINST TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS" in large, bold, white capital letters. Below this text is a red rectangular box containing the text "JULY 30TH" in white capital letters. In the top right corner, there is an orange diamond-shaped logo with the word "Oasis" in white. At the bottom of the banner, there is a dark gray horizontal bar containing the text "Where does India stand in human trafficking?" and "Watch this video to know" in white.

[Watch](#)

Victim's Voices Lead The Way

This year's theme is "Victim's Voices Leads The Way". The victims and their stories must be highlighted and it is important that we listen and learn from the survivors of human trafficking. Here are some gut-wrenching and important stories.

Keerthi's Story



Keerthi* was just 16 when her parents decided to marry her off to their relative. She was young and could not cope with the daily chores of getting up at 4 am for house work. Her husband physically abused her to the point where she ran back to her parents' house. She silently suffered as people mocked and taunted her in the village for leaving her abusive husband.

A well-wisher often visited Keerthi and her parents. She always spoke to Keerthi of her struggles and promised her that everything will be ok. One day, she asked Keerthi if she would like to come with her to Mumbai and get a good job. Keerthi knew that this was her way out of this silent suffering. She agreed and they went to Mumbai to start her new life. Little did she know that this woman was a brothel keeper and has brought her here for commercial sex work. Vulnerability and those in dysfunctional families are always targeted by the perpetrators.

Keerthi was locked in a room in a brothel for a week and was asked to attend customers. She felt betrayed, lost and hopeless in a place where she knew nothing or no one. Fighting back did not do her any good. She had no choice but to accept her fate. Keerthi did not reveal this to her parents as she knew she would be subjected to more judgement and shame. She always told her parents that she had a nice job in the city and a good salary but the reality pricked her heart deep.

On one of her visits to the village, she met Amal*. They fell in love, got married and had two beautiful children. Keerthi was betrayed yet again when she found out that Amal was already married. She moved back to the red-light area. This was when she met our change agent Madhavi who helped her get to the other side of the dark tunnel. Madhavi helped Keerthi send her daughter and son to safe shelter homes and introduced her to Oasis India. Our staff helped Keerthi move into our rehabilitation home, Nirmal Bhavan where she gets counselling and skill development training.

From a life filled with abuse, betrayal and pain, Keerthi now has a new beginning.

*name changed

Jasmine's Story



When Jasmine* was born, her father left the family because he wanted a baby boy and not a girl. Jasmine's mother was a commercial sex worker in Kamathipura who struggled to provide for her children alone. She had to attend the customers with her new born child; a situation that no mother should go through. After the kids grew up, Jasmine and her siblings were sent to be a part of our day care center and night shelter every day as their mother had to work at the brothel.

Jasmine has been a part of our after-school programme for children and stays back in the night shelter until 10 pm. Our staff noticed that she often imitated her mother in the way she spoke and acted as that was all she saw back at home. At a young age, she was exposed to the activities in the red-light area. Children learn from what they see. Our well-equipped staff met with Jasmine's mother and explained the effects that this environment and actions have on her child and how she can curb it. Counselling and parenting sessions have helped the mother - daughter develop a good relationship together and spend quality time that enables a healthy holistic growth of Jasmine.

For the past two years, Jasmine attends a local government school and has accustomed to a structured and disciplined lifestyle. She is taught about good choices, safe and unsafe touch and other important things at our center. Our staff have witnessed her blossom into an ambitious and bright girl. She is enthusiastic and is always up to any challenge in her academics. Jasmine is very good with numbers and always aspires to finish her work on time. Not just in academics but she has reached a milestone in developing her emotional intelligence. Jasmine often withdrew when she was unhappy and when our staff spoke to her, she said that she could not express or identify what she was feeling. We helped her identify her emotions and through life skill sessions helped her understand, use, and manage her emotions in a positive way.

Children who live in the red-light areas can thrive with a change of environment, role models and direction. Jasmine is a good example for this.

*name changed

Manasi's Story



Manasi* lived with her parents and a disabled sister in Nalasopara, Mumbai. She recounts her struggles and abuse at home:

"I had two sisters. My father used to come home drunk and beat up my mother everyday. As a child, I only saw fights at home and as a result I could not express my feelings or talk about anything to anyone. I became very silent. I studied only until 7th grade. I wanted to study more but my father stopped my education and sent me to work in a steel factory for Rs. 300, per month. My father never liked me or my sisters. He sexually abused me for several years. My sister suddenly disappeared one day when she was just 7 years old. My heart was broken as I longed to know what happened to her and where she was. I am not able to overcome that loss even today. My father abused my disabled sister too. Our own home was not safe for us."

Manasi has finished her nursing skill training at our Nalasopara hub. While things were looking up for Manasi, the second wave hit and her father began forcing her to start commercial sex work to earn money. As we were alerted about the situation, we warned the father and have moved Manasi into our rehab home, Nirmal Bhavan, where she will be safe and can take up trainings for skill development.

Although, Manasi feels like this change is everything she every wanted, she is worried about her mother and sister. This new beginning can be a fresh start not just for Manasi but for family too. Her hope is to have a life free of abuse and pain.

*name changed



The common thread in all of our hubs across India is prevention and creating awareness on anti-human trafficking. This week, our team in Chennai planned a week of awareness sessions for the women and children in our community hubs to observe Word Day Against Trafficking In Persons. They conducted drawing competitions, movie viewing and discussions and awareness on child trafficking, sexual abuse, safe and unsafe touch. They also reached out to Plant Boys Home and conducted awareness sessions for children in the home too! A fruitful week with enlightened minds.



In Bangalore, our team conducted sessions and activities on online safety and prevention of human trafficking for children in the anti-human trafficking club.

Take Action

How can you help make trafficking history? Here are a few ways

JOIN OUR 500 CLUB

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ORGANISE AN AWARENESS SESSION ONLINE

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