



World Day Against Trafficking In Persons

INCLUSION | JULY EDITON

www.oasisindia.org

Dear all,

JULY 30TH was **World Day Against Trafficking in Persons**, and as a human trafficking prevention organisation, we want you to hear from those affected and see what you are doing to help them.

Suganthi* was trafficked into sex work by her friend. She was forced to take customers and has been working in Grant Road, Mumbai, for the past 7 years. She shudders at the thought of the trauma and abuse she faced in isolation for the first three days in the brothel. When Suganthi met with our team, she confessed that she was unable to move out of the red-light area even if she wanted to, because she had no money.

We helped her enrol in our vocational tailoring programme. Suganthi, after several one-on-one counselling sessions, overcame the trauma and found a fresh hope for the future. She received life skills training, was part of our group programmes, and developed the skills to help her thrive in a new community.

During the pandemic, Suganthi moved to her village with her daughters. She bought a sewing machine and practised her tailoring skills. She receives orders to stitch pillow covers and cushion covers from her company. This money helped her separate from her abusive husband, live independently and take care of her health and her daughters.

We are hopeful for more stories like Suganthi's. We are hopeful for a day when there is no human trafficking.

*name changed

HELP US FIGHT AGAINST HUMAN TRAFFICKING

SUPPORT

INTERVIEW WITH THE LOGICAL INDIAN



MANGNEO LHUNGDIM
OASIS INDIA'S EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Our Executive Director, Mangneo Lhungdim, spoke about the increasing instances of human trafficking in India, and Oasis India's fight against trafficking in an interview with Palak Agrawal from Efforts For Good.

Efforts For Good and The Logical Indian brings to you conversations that will decode the social development sector and bring to spotlight the challenges faced by various stakeholders.

WATCH HERE

Rehabilitation Centre for Women



Leela's* family sent her for domestic work from the age of 8. Her family did construction work and moved around the city. They thought the job was unsafe for a young girl; therefore, Leela was sent to work in many houses as domestic help.

In one particular house, Leela was sexually harassed by an elderly man. Even after she quit the job, he followed her and continued to harass her. When Leela was helpless, Laxmi, her coworker who was a former beneficiary of Oasis India, introduced Leela to Nirmal Bhavan.

Nirmal Bhavan is a rehabilitation centre in Mumbai for women and girls who voluntarily leave the red-light area and for those who are vulnerable and in at-risk situations. Leela contacted our staff and moved into the rehab home immediately. She says, "I am happy and stress-free at Nirmal Bhavan. I get to study math, English, and general knowledge, and I also get to learn new skills. I recently learnt how to stitch kurthis and pouches. Studying math and English has created an interest in me to continue studying further. I wish to perfect my tailoring skills, move out one day, and support my mother financially. "

Many vulnerable people, like Leela, are more likely to be trafficked or abused if proper protection is not provided. This happens all around us, and we have to

learn to spot signs to help those at-risk find a safe haven.

*name changed

Identifying trafficking or abuse is the first step to stopping it. Understanding the signs to look out for, could help the most vulnerable people within your community.

Significant Signs

There are a number of signs that are common across all types of exploitation. Including, if a person:

- acts as if instructed by another, as though they are forced or coerced to carry out specific activities
- demonstrates signs of physical or psychological abuse, such as lacking self esteem, seeming anxious, bruising or untreated medical conditions
- seems to be bonded by debt or has money deducted from their salary
- has little or no contact with family or loved ones
- is distrustful of authorities
- has threats made against themselves or family members

Source: Stop the Traffik

UPDATES FROM THE FIELD

As we observe World Day Against Trafficking in Persons today, our teams across India has been working towards spreading awareness on human trafficking through awareness sessions, rallies and programmes in communities, schools and other institutions in the past month. Here's a sneak peak.





From July 29th to July 31st, 2022, our Chennai team and girls from our Project Sarika programme embarked on a three-day trip to Kolli Hills and Pondicherry to raise awareness on human trafficking. They will conduct street plays, awareness sessions, and rallies along the way to promote the prevention of human trafficking.



Our team in Bangalore has anti-human trafficking groups for children. They meet every month to discuss issues in their community and learn about human trafficking, its forms, and the reality of trafficking in India today. The staff also had awareness sessions in schools and colleges on child rights, human trafficking and the importance of child safety.



In Nalasopara, Mumbai, children from our after-school programme came together and rallied against human trafficking in their communities, holding placards and shouting slogans against child labour. The team also conducted sessions in various schools, highlighting the forms of trafficking, gave out flyers and went door to door, raising awareness. Many rickshaw drivers, children, and community members took a pledge against human trafficking.



Our team in Grant Road, Mumbai, along with the change agents and a supporter conducted a mass awareness on child rights in the brothels and red-light areas. This was done to create awareness to the mothers in the RLA on their child's rights. We encouraged the mothers to protect their children from being abused physically, verbally and sexually by ensuring their child's safety everyday.



THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

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