



RED LIGHT DESPATCH

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DELHI, KOLKATA, AND FORBESGANJ (BIHAR)

My Dream Neyum Parveen

Kolkata: My name is Neyum Parveen. I am 10 years old. I study in Apne Aap Centre in Kolkata. **My dream is to go to America.** I have learnt that America is a big country with big buildings and clean cities. All the people speak English. **I also learnt that the currency in America is called dollar. It is not the same currency as our country India. Ruchira Didi from Apne Aap also lives in America in New York.** She visits us often and tells us about different important things that happen around the world. She also brings important guests with her. One day I would like to visit her in New York. I want to see all the places there. I would also live in a tall building from where I can see the whole city.

Struggle for higher education - Jyoti Khatoon

Bihar: My name is Jyoti Khatun. I was the first girls who got sponsorship by "ApneAap" at the age of 6 years for better education. At first, I was admitted to Basti Vikash Kendra, Uttri Rampur run by Apne Aap Women Worldwide for primary education and completed class 5th from there. When the KGBV was started by the organization, I was admitted there and completed class 8th at KGBV. After class 8, I was sponsored for the 10th class education and completed my 10th board exam. Now,

I am studying at Arvind Mhaila collage, Patna by the sponsorship

received from Apne Aap Women World Wide

My first journey for Patna was very exciting. I am the first girls in my family who got the opportunity to receive higher education. I felt very insecure at Patna because it is a big and hugely populated city full of heavy traffic and crowd.

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Rally in protest with local Councilor against Asifa's case

Kolkata: Apne Aap Women World Wide India Trust is an NGO, working in Kolkata, Delhi, Bihar. We are working with the prostituted women and children at risk of being trafficked from marginalized communities. We are educating and admitting their children into the Rama Krishna Vivekananda Mission where they are being imparted with education and opportunities to have a flourishing future. We are conducting Remedial classes, creche class, Mime and drawing workshops for the children. Every now

and then, these children are given lessons in Co-curricular like computer training and crafts work. Their entire needs from books to uniforms are taken care of by the organization and its affiliations. The women and girl children are also given classes in stitching and applique work.

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Op/Ed : Why No to Death Penalty, Juanita Kakoty

There is a need to challenge the recent ordinance related to Criminal Law (Amendment) Ordinance which allows for death penalty of those who are convicted under the rape of a girl below 12 years of age. We are substantiating below our reasons for discontent and aggravation with Capital punishment accorded by the state to legally terminate someone's Right to Life constitutionally. The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) in order to protect and promote human rights, 'advocates universal abolition of death penalty' and it recognizes that there is 'absence of proof that the death penalty serves as a deterrent to crime' (UNHRC, 2017). Death Penalty is a gross violation and comes in direct conflict of Article 21 of the Constitution of India - Right to Life and Personal Liberty. According to the Center for Constitutional Rights, 'UN General Assembly, the representative body of recognized States, has called for an end to the death penalty and human rights organizations agree that its imposition breaches fundamental enshrined human rights norms.'

In this light we see that this Ordinance is powerless to fight against the gravity of crimes against women, in general, and against children, in particular, which is further discussed below drawing from international and national reports.

Various researches are stressing the ineffectiveness of death penalty. Three years of extensive research conducted by the American National Academy of Sciences National Review Council in 2012 talks about 'lack of evidence' as deterrence to sexual offenses. Similarly, the Death Penalty India Report, after reviewing 300 cases, constitutes the invalidity of the death sentence as deterrence; and that it is counter-productive can be seen from the increase in rapes of girls in India by 12% and that of children by 82% after the *Nirbhaya* episode in 2012.

The rate of convictions of the accused is dismayingly low. Incidents of rape of chil-

dren have increased by over 82% compared to 2015 (NCRB, 2016) and only 18.9% of cases of crimes against women resulted in conviction in 2016, which are the lowest in a decade (NCRB, 2016). The already existing legal apparatus is failing to address the problem.

Familiarity of accused to the victim either as family member, friend, neighbour or acquaintance in over 94% cases (NCRB, 2016) makes under-reporting already a serious issue. Therefore death sentence will further discourage the victims from reporting violence ('Reporting and incidence of violence against women in India', Aashish Gupta, 2014).

Death Penalty India Report, NLU Delhi, February 2016 talks about issues of uniformity in awarding of death sentences. It was found to be arbitrary and majority of prisoners sentenced to death in India are from backward classes and religious minorities. This has been reiterated in the 262nd Law Commission Report: Due to entrenched religious and caste-class biases an overwhelming majority of the convicts are Dalits and minorities from poor backgrounds and most of them tortured into making confessions. Also, there have been glaring defects in the manner in which the crimes are investigated and the trial is conducted. Important evidence is not collected and the protocols which are supposed to be followed by the police during investigation are bypassed (Cornell Center on the Death Penalty Worldwide Database, accessed on 23.04.2018).

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Diary of a Social Worker

Challenges of working in the community, Hakim Muhammad Afzal

Delhi: I remember it was a usual visit in the community along with Apne Aap Women Worldwide team members. Only this time, the usual pleasantries that all of us used to get from the women and children in the community were rather missing. It was an atmosphere of gloom and no familiar face could be seen around. After inquiring in a few houses, we come to know the reason behind the anger and silent treatment from these women. A couple of these women from the Singhi community earlier had asked for work that would bring their families instant monetary benefits. However, due to paucity of time and due to the lack of jobs for the unskilled labour in rural or urban settings, this task could not be carried out.

The hue and cry raised by these women included many remarks that a social worker hears more often than not. Remarks such as “what have you really done to make our lives better?” and “what is the point of you coming to the community if you are unable to do things?” were heard that coming from multiple people now and so we had to step in and comfort them. One of the things I realized help calm these women down is the humane and patient replies of the members of the organization. To make these women feel that they are welcomed to raise their issues and that their issues are being heard and responded to makes a huge difference on how welcomed the organization is in the community.

The women were counseled about the ways and methods in which Apne Aap was working and

the larger goal that it meant to achieve through its “ten asset approach”, with emphasis on education. They were asked to look around and identify the girl children who were now making steady progress in schools. They were asked if they see changes in behaviour and outlook in these youngsters and their vision for the future to which they replied in positive affirmation. These women were assured of their faith in the organization when they were told about the various agencies who have shown keen interest in helping their cause because the representatives of these organizations would visit them and interact with them and they used to share details of their problems.

As a social worker in the field, I have come to realize that the ethics of working and a human connect with the underprivileged people that we are working with are two things that would go long distance in your pursuits for social justice. The elements of socialising and reassurance are absolutely necessary to help in building faith in the community where these people feel an inclusive part of the organization and not some poor helpless people who need others to uplift them. That’s what “Apne Aap” in its literal sense means. To help these people become self-sufficient and self-reliant so much so that they are able to elevate themselves.

Did You Know?

In India:

- There are 2.3 million women and girls in prostitution
- A quarter of 2.3 million are under the age of 18
- There are 1,000 red-light areas

Globally:

- About 58 % of all cases of trafficking detected globally are purpose of sexual exploitation
- About 75 % of all trafficking victims detected globally are women and girls
- About 20.9 million adults and children are bought and sold for commercial exploitation

Sports workshop at primary school

—Priyanka

Delhi: My name is Priyanka. I live in Najafgarh. I study in class 4. My school's name is MCD Primary School. Our school has a small building. We also have a playground. I love when we have our games class. I along with my friends play kho-kho, net ball, volley ball, badminton and cricket as well. My favourite game is badminton.

Apne Aap Women Worldwide conducts regular workshops in our school. This time they conducted a very interesting sports workshop. There were two sports trainers that came to our school. We were called to the ground where badminton net was erected and the court was drawn using chalk powder. It was a huge square box. I was so happy to know that the trainers are badminton players.

We were divided into groups of six students. We were asked to run around the court for five minutes as it would warm up our body. The instructors told us about the importance of warming up our body. We were told that warming up helps

the blood to go around the body faster. It takes the blood to the muscles. Then we were told about the rules of the game. I got to know that I was playing the game all wrong. They taught us to hold the racquet in the correct way. We then had a doubles match. My best friend and I were a team.

After the matches, we were told about the importance of sports. It keeps us healthy and fit. It develops team work. It also teaches us patience. It also develops the brain and makes us more alert. I also learned about Indian badminton champion Saina Nehwal. She is a very famous player. I want to play badminton when I grow up and win many medals for our country.

Get yourself involved!

Be a part of the campaign!

Click a selfie and share it with us on the Facebook Page 'Cool Men Don't Buy Sex' <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Cool-Men-Dont-Buy-Sex/624526271001934> with #CoolMenDontBuySex #Selfie #ApneAap.

The Cool Men Don't Buy Sex Campaign is a call to end demand for sex trafficking which highlights the role that men play in fostering the sex industry.



Apne Aap's "Cool Men Don't Buy Sex" campaign was born to draw attention to the demand side of sex trafficking - the traffickers, pimps, and purchasers of sex. Apne Aap advocates for the criminalization of these individuals – they are responsible for maintaining sexual slavery and continue to exploit women and girls every day in India.

Art workshop at the primary school, *Astaben*

Delhi: My name is Astaben. I study in class 5. My favourite subject is Hindi. My hobby is to make greeting cards for my family and friends. I love going to school. We learn a lot of new things in school. A lot of people come to our school with Apne Aap. They teach us a lot of fun things like making paper birds, hand painting, doll making etc. They ask us many different questions like about our hobbies and our favourite subjects. This one time we had an art class. We were all very excited as it meant that we will get to paint. Our teacher came prepared with all the equipments. There were brushes and palettes and a lot of different colours to mix. There was pink, green, yellow, blue, etc.

The teacher told us that we will learn texture design. I did not know what that means. He explained that texture means the way that things look or feel. Everything has some type of texture. We describe things as being rough, smooth, silky, shiny, fuzzy and so on. Some things feel just as they appear. Some things look like they are rough but are actually smooth. Different things have different textures even our hands. My hands are smooth but my mother's hands are not.

We were asked to collect different textured materials all over the school and bring them to the class. At the end of the collection we had collected many things like leaves, flowers, cloth, paper, some stones and a brush. We were given

poster colours. I didn't know they were called poster colours. We mixed colours with water and then dipped the things in colours. We then painted with the things. All the different things made different textures on paper. I painted a big butterfly. I coloured it in pink and yellow. Pink is my favourite colour. My teacher really praised my butterfly and hung it on the wall.

We were asked to collect different textured materials all over the school and bring them to the class. At the end of the collection we had collected many things like leaves, flowers, cloth, paper, some stones and a brush.

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My First Day at Apne Aap:

—*Ritambara Kaushik*

Delhi: I come from law stream and whenever I look for some organisation to work with or intern as every other law student does. In my 3rd year of BALLB course I decided to utilize my internship break to understand the Indian women and their daily challenges that is when Apne AAP Women Worldwide's option came to my mind. Although the whole story starts from 2017 when I got an opportunity to be a part their 2nd World Congress on Sexual Exploitation that took place in Delhi with preponderance of the present dignitaries from all over the world. That very day I had decided to become a part of this NGO, and as this was my first internship experience with an NGO, I had no idea as to what an NGO internship would entail.

This element of newness and uncertainty was both exciting and challenging to learn under the guidance of some fabulous seniors like Ms . Anahita Mir , with whom every minute spent was thought provoking and quenched my thirst for

knowledge. Ms . Khushboo being a true leader manages everything flawlessly and is more active when it comes to ground work. I was prescribed work according to my capabilities and interest of stream which I think is the most wise thing to do in order to bring out the best out of a person. This NGO works like a great family where you are never neglected and after all this is their task too, to love mankind without singling out anyone for any reason.

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I was admitted there in Arvinda Mahila College and some coaching centers from the higher education by the support of Apne Aap and started to attend my collage and coaching classes. I was also admitted to a girl's hostel for stay. There were many girls from different backgrounds and locations who were living in the hostel. I got inspiration and support from these girls to overcome my fears. Some of the girl also commented regarding my fears. Anyways, I have a dream of making my life special and need to continue regular studies. I am worried about the subject English but I will try to work hard for earning the knowledge of English. My class teacher and coaching teacher are supporting me to lift up my confident.

I am expending my extra time to understand the method of transportation life and library. I am quite happy now and am working hard to get higher education to make my dream come true.

Thanks Apne Aap and Apne Aap team members for uplifting my confidence and making it possible for me to get higher education in a big city like Patna. Now I am studying in Patna in B.A. Part-III in Shri Arvind Mahila College and living in a girl's hostel named Mother Teresa minority Girls Hostel in the university campus. I am studying hard and want to become a police officer and serve the country and especially for the upliftment of my community. Thanks a lot to Apne Aap specially Ruchira Di, Tinku Di and Bihar team to provide me with this kind of support.

(Jyoti Khatoon is currently studying at Sri Arvind Mahila College, Patna)

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It has been acknowledged that there is no scientific basis for claiming that death penalty has a deterrent effect on the incidence of crime. On the other hand, studies show that as punishments become stricter, the rate of conviction falls as Judges are reluctant to convict and/or award harsh sentences. An anticipated result of introducing death penalty for rape would be the reduction in convictions and an increase in impunity (Submission to the Committee headed by Justice J.S. Verma on amendment of laws relating to Rape and Sexual Assault by Working Group on Human Rights in India and the UN (WGHR), 2013).

Vrinda Grover, Supreme Court Advocate, draws attention to the fact that earlier convictions which have been awarded the death sentence have not created any effect to reduce the violence. Conviction rates in child rape cases have been as low as 28% (2016) and over 90% cases are pending trial ('Why the Death Penalty for Child Rape Does Not Mean Swifter, Better Jus-

tice,' *India Spend*, 2017). This tells us that death sentence will be awarded only when conviction has taken place. Hence, there lies a greater need to establish a mechanism to improve the conviction rate and bring scientific analysis. In India, people who are economically vulnerable also face a greater likelihood of being sentenced to death because of the poor quality or complete absence of legal representation. Victims of trafficking are subjected to severe forms of sexual violence, repeated rapes, survival sex, forced prostitution, bonded labour etc. and the irony is that the anti-trafficking bill still does not include sexual exploitation in its definition. Therefore, ordinance on death penalty circumvent the entire gamut of sex trafficking in India by not recognizing the rapes of trafficked women and girls. Repealing these amendments would be a bigger deterrent to rape than the death penalty.

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Apne Aap organized a peaceful rally on 19.4.2018, at 4-6pm, to protest for Asifa's rape and murder, the growing rape culture in our society and increasing violence against women. Our route of the rally was from, *1 no. Shastitala Road to Khidderpore*. Women and children of the community along with the staff members of the organization rallied under the banner of protest against the indifference shown towards all forms of violence against women in general and rape violence in particular. Many others from outside joined the rally and marched alongside us while we chanted slogans against the perpetrators of these crimes and of demands for justice. Many creative banners and posters with strong messages were made by young boys and girls who could be seen walking shoulder to shoulder with their adult counterparts and making the demands

for a safe environment to grow up in. An environment where everyone would think twice before causing any hurt to another human being let alone violate them or exploit them.

We concluded the Rally with a street corner meeting with our Local councilor Mrs. Bilkis Begum where many important policy issues were discussed to provide swift judgement to the victims and an even swifter punishment to the culprits. Points were made in favor of dispensing assured judgment and speeding up the process of trials, ensuring that the criminals do not have access to bails and that investigations are conducted in a humane way with proper storage of evidence and some points were also made against the proposed bill of capital punishment against the culprits. our Director, Ms. Tinku Khanna delivered a wonder speech at the Khidderpore Mor.

Poem

I live near the train tracks
In small little huts
My mother works in the day
She finds gold in garbage
When the train comes
The loud horn blows
We run and hide under the bed
You should not be afraid my mother said
The noise has passed and the shaking stopped
Our little house is quiet again
Sk Sahil
Age 10 years old



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