



RED LIGHT DESPATCH

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DELHI, KOLKATA, AND FORBESGANJ (BIHAR)

My Dreams **“To own a home”** *Prince, 10 years*

Delhi: My name is Prince. I am 10 years old. I live in Najafgarh in Delhi. I belong to Singhi Community. I work as a rag picker in the locality I have a big family of seven members. I get up early everyday to start early so that I can collect many things to sell.

Every night I give my earnings to my mother who takes care of us. I have a dream of owning a big house someday where I can live with my family. I don't have a proper house right now but we made a home from things we collect during the day. It is not a good place to live in. When I build my house it will have a garden in the front where we will grow lots of flowers. We will be very happy there.

Prince is one of the beneficiaries of Apne Aap Women Worldwide.

Learning Catering Business Skills at the community *- Aarti*

Delhi: Najafgarh in Delhi. I belong to Singhi Community. We used to do animal shows in the past but after the ban on animal shows, our earnings have declined. Apne Aap comes to our community very often. They bring many people with them to teach us new things. We are taught different skills by them. This time **Apne Aap asked the women of the community if they want to start their business and help with the household income.** It was a very exciting idea but the women in our locality do not have any education.

We knew that business required education. We were told that we would be trained to operate a catering business.

Youth for Peace International came to visit us in the community. They talked to us about what we want to do. We discussed various possibilities to set up an income generation businesses. All the women liked the idea of supporting their family with some extra income. The extra money could be used for education of our children, medical expenses or to save for future emergencies.

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A visit to the Apeejay Literary Festival 2018, Karina Jha

Kolkata: Every year Apeejay Literary Festival is held in Kolkata with a lot of excitement. As previous year this year also Apne Aap Women Worldwide participated in Apeejay Literary Festival 2018. The festival is held at the ground of St Paul's church every year. This year's festival focused on health, current affairs, women's issues and children's literature. There were many competitions in the festival like the writing competition, poetry competition.

This year Ruchira di (Ruchira Gupta) delivered a speech about Apne Aap Women Worldwide's remarkable anti trafficking work in Forbeshganj, Bihar and about the last girl first approach across the world.

This year Juhi Khatoon from Apne Aap Women Worldwide also gave a speech at the festival. She shared her story about her rescue story in Bihar and how her life changed.

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Op/Ed : Ruchira Gupta on the 'thread of courage' that helped actress Ashley Judd break her silence
The Telegraph

When we started 2017, we couldn't possibly have foreseen the Women's March, the reckoning for men, the #MeToo campaign, and the brave 'Silence Breakers' led by Ashley Judd being named the TIME Person of the Year and we couldn't have imagined how the world would change as a result. As the campaign spreads, men have slowly begun to realise what women don't want. They have also begun to reassess actions in their own past, which they had written off as everyday interactions, as their own abuse of power. A new vision of flirting, friendships and love between the sexes based on mutual pleasure — welcome sex vs so-called consensual sex — is being explored by all generations and all sexes.

The poorest women of Calcutta, Forbesganj, Bihar, and Delhi from the brothels of Sonagachhi and the caste-ghettos of denotified tribes trapped in inter-generational prostitution in Lalten Bazar and Dharpura played a significant role in unleashing this movement.

Year after year, at my invitation, Ashley Judd came and sat in circles with the prostituted women of our anti-sex-trafficking organisation, Apne Aap Women Worldwide. **They shared stories about the repeated rape and body-invasion that they experienced. They also spoke about the brutal beatings that they were subjected to when they resisted.** Some spoke about the shame and stigma imposed on them by their own family members and friends, when they broke their silence.

A decade after the first sit-in circle in Calcutta, Ashley broke her own silence at my dining table in Manhattan. The New York Times correspondent had brought flowers and pastries. I arranged the flowers while Ashley talked. That very night, feminist icon Gloria Steinem gave Ashley The Last Girl award on behalf of Apne Aap at the Cosmopolitan Club.

At that time, we had no way of knowing that Ashley's interview would unleash an unstoppable campaign cutting across borders and boundaries. But we did know that we women had to keep forming cir-

cles of truth and friendship to challenge the structures of power and privilege that oppressed us. A thread unites the women of Sonagachhi and Lalten Bazar with Ashley, Gloria and I. Ashley put out a Christmas appeal this December for Apne Aap saying that by "breaking their silence, the women of Apne Aap helped me break my silence." This is the thread of courage and hope. Courage is Contagious. 2017 was about #Metoo. 2018 is #TimesUp.

(This article was originally published in
The Telegraph)

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Diary of a Social Worker

Madhu Kumari, IGP Trainer, Apne Aap Bihar

Bihar: My name is Madhu Kumar and I am an IGP trainer in Apne Aap Women Worldwide India Trust, Forbesganj and Bihar. I am belong to a very poor BPL family and my father is not alive. I am also a divorced woman. I have two small children who are dependent on me and I am living in my maternal home with my children. Before joining work at Apne Aap, I worked as a teacher in a private school. I have been appointed as an IGP trainer here from 1 July 2016. It is a Livelihood program for the very poor and marginalized girls belonging to various below poverty line communities run by Apne Aap to provide the sustainable livelihood options.

When I was appointed there, only four girls who came to the IGP class on regular basis but unfortunately they stopped coming after a week. After visited their home they said they could not pay the fee of Rs.- 50 per month and decided to not come to the class. I had a discussion with Praveen sir, who is the in charge of Bihar IGP program also (as per instruction received from Rajni Chachi Ji). He suggested me to appoint the new girls who are needful and come here for computer class also. I organized a meeting with these girls and 10 girls from them are ready to learn IGP stitching class.

I continue my IGP class here and with these girls and after a month a new batch of other 10 girls started by me. I am trying my best to learn the girls the stitching technique and they all are learning the skills very much. After a year from July 2017 the fee rate for the IGP class was hiked by the office

side and now the girls are paying 100 rupees for a month. There are 20 girls now in two batches and them learning and enjoying the class actively and carefully.

I am now very happy with my children and family members and thankful to Apne Aap to give me support and this kind of opportunities.

Thanks a lot Rajni Chachi Ji and Apne Aap Bihar team.

When I was appointed there, only four girls who came to the IGP class on regular basis but unfortunately they stopped coming after a week.

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
- About 1 in 10 men in the world have bought commercial sex

Visiting the UNICEF Mela

—Balma

Delhi: My name is Balma. I live in Dharampura. I love to visit new places and meet new people. I along with my friends went to a big mela in Zor Bagh. Khushboo didi took us all to the mela. We were told that it was organised by UNICEF. It is an international organisation which works for making this world a better place for children. We took a bus from the community bus stop. The bus was organised by Apne Aap Women Worldwide. We boarded the bus early in the morning because we wanted to be on time. **We were all very excited to go to the mela.** We sang lots of happy songs on our way to Zor Bagh. We sang Hindi songs and some of the girls sung folk songs. Some of the girls even danced. When we reached there, we were told that the mela is organised for the benefit of underprivileged people and many NGO's took part in it.

The mela was a very colorful with beautiful paper decorations. A long line of stalls was set up. We toured the mela. There were different organisations displaying many products they make like we do at Apne Aap. There were dolls, paper bags, jute bags, beautiful embroidered shawls and dresses. I pur-

chased a beautiful dress for myself. It is red in colour and has stars on it. I will wear it for my birthday. There was a puppet show at the mela. The puppets were so colorful. They even were wearing jewelry. They danced and sang. They told the audience about the importance of education for children. They also narrated the difficulties that children face while getting education. I knew whatever they said was true because I also have faced similar hurdles in getting educations and I see girls from my community suffering.

We spent a lot of time interacting with the organizations there. We learnt about work that different organizations do. We also learnt about many creative things that people make. We were very hungry at lunch time. There was such a variety of food that it was difficult to choose. There was Indian, Italian, Chinese and other variety that I couldn't recognize. We all decided to have biryani. I love biryani. It was so tasty. We even ate sweets. There were hot gulab jamuns and ice cream. The day ended with us going back to our homes. We were very tired but happy. **I am looking forward to attend it again.**

**Get yourself involved!
Be a part of the campaign!**

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.

Children from of DNT community have started Education
Munni Kumari / As dictated to: Praveen Kumar

Bihar: My name is Munni Kumari. I am from Banjara community. My father's name is Sanjay Banjara and mothers name is Lalita. I am 12 years old now. We live at near about Kosi Colony Bathnaha from 10 years. We live in the small tents made by plastic sheets and old cloths. We all are approximately 10 families who live together there. We are doing the job of herbs collection from the jungles and selling them as herbal medicines in the near about the villages and in Nepal.

Often the children beg and hunt birds to fulfill the needs of our family. We live here from twenty years but nothing from the government side to be provided to us as a citizen of India. We have not the ID cards, BPL cards and other governmental facilities and have not linkage with any government schemes yet. I am sixteen years old now but not used to go to school and not even anybody from our community used to go to school yet.

There is a right to education for every child any many programs have been run by the government to achieve the targets but sorry to say that not any attention paid by any government officers to us to link with the right and but we are denied yet. Last year in June and July month, two people named Praveen and Amit who are from an organization named Apne Aap Women Worldwide situated in Forbesganj visited our place with some local school teachers and SSB persons. At first we didn't know about them but when they told us about the reason of their visit and about their organization, we started to talk a little to them about our family and community. Thereafter they started regular visits

here. We told them our sorrowful story, and the victimization by the other community people, they told us that they want to help us in different ways. They also told that the real reason for all the problems is illiteracy. Literate person always aware for his rights.

They promise us that they talked with the seniors of the organization to support us and linkage with all the related government schemes also. In a few days, he came back with two other people, teachers from the near about govt. school and meet my father and after getting his permission they admitted me and 8 other children in the near about govt. school and we started the journey of learning from now. Now I with other children from my community received the education in this school. It is possible due the steps made by the Apne Aap organization team. Thanks a lot to the organization to provide this kind of support to us.

**We live in the small tents
made by plastic sheets and old
cloth. We all are around 10
families who live together
there.**

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Write to us for any queries or comments at contact@apneaap.org



My First Day at Apne Aap:

—Harsh

Delhi: We were three friends. We entered into the office of Apne Aap Women Worldwide and, as it is natural, I was nervous about the work environment and the others stuffs.

But the energies and aura of the office was so much so position that my all nervousness vanished as soon as I entered into the room where we were to work.

The entire office was ethnically decorated. We have been given the library to work. Two walls of library was transparent and definitely giving a beautiful sense of being in touch with nature.

We have been introduced to the staff and 'Delhi Head' of the organisation. And as expected the staff was so supportive. Politeness was the common virtue of all of them. We were not overburdened by the work load but given time to understand the nature of the work. All of us had a formal chat with the co-workers and the staff.

And the very first day, I came to know a beautiful fact that shows their sensitivity towards the trafficking and prostitutions issue. During the conversa-

tion, I used the word “prostitute” for the women who were trafficked and compelled to work as in the sex industry, then one of the associate told me that we do not use word 'the prostitute' for such type of women, instead we use 'the prostituted woman'. She further explains me the reasons that the word we use always have an impact on our thinking.

First thing we have to teach ourselves is that they are being forced to such works, it's not their choice. I was extremely impressed by this degree of sensitivity towards a vulnerable class. Earlier, whenever I had a debate on the legalising sex business and prostitution, I always spoke against this argument only on the moral basic, but that day I came to know a important logical fact that any business need skill and skill grow with the time, but in this profession (if you consider it one) by the time women reaches the age of 30-35, they are useless. So it can't be a skill.

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After a lot of discussion we decided that cooking was something that all the women can do. We decided to set up a kitchen in the community because most of the women are not allowed to go out to work. The men don't let the women go for work outside their community.

We collected utensils and chulhas, etc. One of the women in the community gave us space to cook food. We also painted the walls to make it look nice. All the women in the community can cook but had never cooked in large quantities. We were trained to cook food in large quantities. They also conducted hygiene workshops with the women. We were also taught about the importance of cleanliness and hygiene in cooking. We also learned that wearing gloves and a cap while cooking is important to maintain the hygiene. We were told that quality of the food is very crucial.

The food will be supplied to nearby hostels and colleges. Students come to Delhi from faraway places

and miss home cooked food. Our catering will help them to enjoy home cooked food even when away from home.

We were explained the process of setting up a business by the volunteers. It is a long process and requires patience. We are all very excited for the business to pick up pace.

We were also taught about the importance of cleanliness and hygiene in cooking. We also learned that wearing gloves and a cap while cooking is important to maintain the hygiene.

The #metoo movement that shook the world

Some Facts

The seeds of the campaign were sowed in 2006 by an activist. The movement has now been making waves in India, with first explosion in the entertainment and news industries.

1. Tarana Burke is the real face of the #MeToo campaign. An African-American civil rights activist, Burke started the campaign way back in 2006. Burke originally coined the term "me too" while talking to a girl who revealed that her mother's boyfriend had been sexually abusing her. To empathise with her and other victims of abuse, she said, "You're not alone. This happened to me too." Burke then penned the story about the girl. Read the story here.

2. MeToo became a global phenomenon on 15 October 2017 with this one tweet of Hollywood actress Alyssa Milano who requested victims of sexual assault to speak out. She wrote: "If you've been sexually harassed or assaulted write 'me too' as a reply to this tweet."

If you've been sexually harassed or assaulted write me too' as a reply to this tweet. Alyssa Milano

3. According to Pew Research, the #MeToo hashtag was already used more than 19 million times on Twitter in just English language, which comes to an average of 55,319 per day. 4. The Pew Research concluded that mainly two kinds of #MeToo interactions existed. The first involved celebrities or the entertainment industry,

and the second was personal stories. Put together, 29 per cent of all interactions on #MeToo were either about entertainment industry or personal sagas. About 71 per cent of #MeToo tweets were in English language.

5. Google has created a dedicated website, MeTooRising, on search trends on MeToo across the world. It shows cities where the campaign trended on different dates along with current results -- and India is shining bright right now (see photo above). According to Google, MeToo has been searched in all the 195 countries in the world within the past one year.

6. In India, MeToo campaign started picking up around 7 October when actor Tanushree Dutta made serious allegations against Nana Patekar recounting her experiences during the shoot of the film, Horn OK Pleasss, 10 years ago. Since then, the controversy has engulfed many famous and important personalities.

(Published in India Today, Nikhil Dawar)

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She also spoke about the family based prostitution practiced in Forbeshganj, Araria in Bihar.

Juhi also shared her life achievements such as the chance to get admission in St Xavier College, her visit to the USA among many others. Lots of people gathered to listen to her and got inspired by her amazing story. There were some Bollywood and Tollywood celebrities present as well. There were some stalls organized by other social organizations and NGOs. We also had a stall in the festival where we displayed our products from the Income Generation Program Centre. Mothers from Sonagachi and other places work to make products at IGP Centre. Overall it was a great platform to share and learn from others. We had a lot of fun at the festival and learned new things.

We also had a stall in the festival where we displayed our products from the Income Generation Program Centre. Mothers from Sonagachi and other places work to make products at IGP Centre.

It is just a silent violence and exploitation of a woman body until it become useless.

To my surprise, I came to know to that there are communities where the males (head) of the family engage their girls / sister/ wife in this profession. And this practice prevalent in these communities from many generations. After a quality conversation we have been offered coffee and tea. Then I was given a tiny research work. After completing the works we got the permissions to leave. So in totality, the first day experience was splendid as expected. And eventually, after a month, I end up doing a meaningful internship. Thanks to Apne Aap Women World.

I appreciate the presence of Apne Aap in our community and to build courage and strength in us.

Poem

The Cold and Refreshing Water

Whose water is that? I think I know.
Its owner is quite happy though.
Full of joy like a vivid rainbow,
I watch him laugh. I cry hello.
He gives his water a shake,
And laughs until her belly aches.
The only other sound's the break,
Of distant waves and birds awake.
The water is cold, refreshing and deep,
But he has promises to keep,
After cake and lots of sleep.
Sweet dreams come to him cheap.
He rises from his gentle bed,
With thoughts of kittens in his head,
He eats his jam with lots of bread.
Ready for the day ahead.

- Raj, Sapera Community



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