



RED LIGHT DESPATCH

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DELHI, KOLKATA, AND FORBESGANJ (BIHAR)

My Dream Preeti

Delhi: My name is Preeti. I am 7 years old. My dream is to go to a mountain and see a snow fall. I live in Delhi. The weather here is cold in winters and very hot in summers. The sun blazes down at us. The temperature reached 45 degrees. There is dust everywhere. I read in one of my story-books that when it is very cold in winters it snows in the mountains. Everything turns white. What a sight it must be. There are many hill stations close to Delhi. They also show on TV when its snowing in these places and how beautiful everything looks. I want to go to one of these places when it snows. I want to play in the snow and make a snowman just like in my story books. I will go with my family. I wish to fulfill this dream soon.

Survivors at Film Screening -Sabina Bibi

Kolkata: I am a Sabina Bibi from Sonagachi, senior member of Apne Aap. I learnt many things from Apne Aap and Ruchira Di. Ruchira di admitted my child in Ramakrishna Vivekananda Mission, who is doing very well in mission. I am great full to Ruchira di and Apne Aap.

Mrunal Thakur, Bollywood actress came to Sonagachi and spend time with us in our brothel. It was because of Ruchira Di that Mrunal came to meet us and spent time with us.

Later on myself and Payel got chance to act in a film Love Sonia and when we went to Mumbai

we met a very good team of Tabrez Noorani. He is the director the film. We saw the wonderful team work and excellent behaviour of all the staff. Once again we must convey our regards to Ruchira Gupta and Apne Aap.

Beginning of January 2019 we came to know that the film "Love Sonia" will be screened at Max Muller Bhavan at Park street and we were informed that Mrunal Thakur is coming to attend to screening.

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Celebration of National Girls Day in KGBV - Anjali Kumari

Bihar: My name is Anjali Kumari and I am a student of Kasturba Gndhi Balika Avasiya Vidyalaya, Simraha run by Apne Aap Women Worldwide, Forbesganj. On the occasion of National Girl Child Day a program was organized in our hostel. The main aim of the program was to empower the girls who belong to very poor, marginalized and de-notified communities. There were many cultural activities, games, painting competition, paragraph writing competition and other competitions that were organized for the girls by the hostel administra-

tion. At the beginning of the program we all arranged ourselves in rows with banners, posters and slogans and a walked across the whole market shouting the slogans for the empowerment of the girl child. The main objective of the rally was to create awareness among people to end child marriages and dowry system from the society and also create awareness for education of girls.

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Consultation on 'Global Human Trafficking and International Best Practices in Combating Trafficking' by AAWW

Delhi: Apne Aap Women Worldwide held its Second Last Girl First Consultative Workshop on 'Global Human Trafficking and International Best Practices in Combating Trafficking' on 28 of January, 2019 (Monday) at India International Centre. Consultation was a follow up of the three city consultation which Apne Aap organised in November 2017 which highlighted the vulnerabilities of the 'Last girl' and advocate for India to uphold its constitutional and international obligations to them. The aim of these consultation series is to create a campaign that will result in more awareness and action for the Last Girl. It was committed to ensure the rights of the last girl. The Last Girl is someone who is poor, who is female, and who is a teenager. As we know vulnerabilities impinge on much intersectionality; in India, last girl could be Dalit, backward caste and backward class. She exists everywhere at the intersection of gender, caste, class, age and race with vulnerabilities. Her prostitution is an absence of choice not a choice. Trafficking and prostitution grossly violates the fundamental rights of the victim, inflicts tremendous psychological and physical harm on the individual, and affects communities from which victims are taken.

This consultation took place under the backdrop of Apne Aap's submission of Shadow Report to the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW). This submission is an important step to keep abreast of vulnerabilities among the weaker sections of societies and suggesting best practices to the governments and concerned international bodies.

Consultation saw participation from various organizations and individual working in the field on sex trafficking and child protection. It was precisely attended by Haq-Centre for Child Rights, Prayas Juvenile Aid Centre, Participatory Research in Asia, Harpreet Bhullar from International Labour Organization, Kiri Atreye from UNHCR, Md. Javed from Don Bosco, Dileesh Varghese from Catholic Relief Services, Shikha Philips from Free a Girl India, Divya Srinivasan from Equality Now,

U.B Kaushik from Lok Seva Foundation, Philip C. from HRLN, Emrine Kharbhih from Impulse NGO Network, Anasuya Gupta from EU-Delegation India among many others. Their valuable output was invited in the form of cases studies and data from their respective area of expertise for the formulation of more comprehensive report.

Many pertinent issues were highlighted. It was brought to notice once again that the victims of trafficking suffer from an absolute lack of choice, both as a result of the specific vulnerabilities and because of overall structural inequalities between rich and poor, men and women etc. The absent or inadequate laws to combat trafficking and their shoddier implementation often coupled with nexus between police and traffickers makes the situation worse for the victims. Post the presentation of the draft report many pertinent interjections were highlighted like the how grave situation of begging conjures up a situations for trafficking. It was highlighted that the population of beggars is on rise in the city spaces than in rural or villages; UNHCR spoke from the point of view of migration, they highlighted the problem of weak referral services constantly poses challenges along with the issue of identification. Discussants stressed yet again that if ITPA or POCSO is implemented judiciously there would be no need for the new Act on the trafficking.

-Ashmeet K Bilkhu

Diary of a Social Worker

Kolkata: My name is Rachana Nayak and I am teacher. I am teaching bridge course & remedial class to students at Apne Aap Women World-wide. Few years ago I was also a student at the Apne Aap center. I joined Apne Aap center on 15th December 2011, where I have seen how they provided effort for eradication of trafficking and prostitution. When I was not the part of Apne Aap center my thinking regarding the people of Red Light Area was not good but as and when I became a part of Apne Aap center my total perception regarding the Red Light Area changed tremendously. After joining the organization, I discovered life in a new way.

I supervise the Munshigunj Center. I teach children, conduct meetings with the children's mothers to discuss their progress and also the challenges in class and their learning. I am also a part of the Adult literacy and visited many children and women's home and also held on different topics and I prepare to the children going to school & admitted in local government school. I mate with many Apne Aap members who were also the part of this project who said their life struggle and other's problem with me. I also provide

suggestion and referral service to them. It was also wonderful experience for me. My joining this NGO I get a chance to meet different peoples. In this Apne Aap NGO I experience a kingdom which was full with tears, pain, unseen sufferings of the women's and girls. I get to know about the women of Red Light Area who was and who are suffering from many problems in their life and in their life are been in a great risk. Their life is full of touching full from brothel, pimp and customer. Like this I get to know about the situation of women's and girls of Red light area.

Their own life and their children life have been great risk. My joining Apne Aap I really get to know about red light area and human anti trafficking.

I get to know that basically child and human trafficking began in their own house and people sold them. Because of greediness of money they sold their own children and wife, sister & other children. I am really happy to be the member of Apne Aap because I am helping the children and the women of Red light area for making them feel safe.

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

Republic Day Celebration- AKC Rampur -Pooja Kumari

Bihar: My name is Pooja Kumari and I am 17 years old now. I study in class XII and I am an active member of the Kishori Mandal run by Apne Aap women Worldwide in Ant Knya Center Urtti Rampur for the adolescent girls. I joined here in 2015 and used to visit on regular basis and I have participated in all the activities arranged for the girls here. I also joined stitching class here and learned stitching. I participated in many training programs like legal awareness, open Mike Session, RLD reading and writing session, Asset training and other activities with my friends in this center. We also organized a weekly meeting and share their experiences with our colleagues. I also participated in the coaching class run by Apne Aap to support us in completing our school home works and other tasks given by the teachers.

I am very thankful to Apne Aap to provide us this kind of trainings and support us to gain the higher education and other knowledge and empowered us in many ways.

After joining the stitching class here, I used to stitch the clothes of my neighbors and earn some money to support my family and my education. I earn Rs. 300-400 in a month and spend this money on our education. It is very helpful to me and a big support to me from Apne Aap side. It is improved our self- confidence too.

This month I had to appear in the examination of class XIIth and Apne Aap supported me in many ways. I do my best and hope for a big achievement in this examination.

We all gathered in a meeting organized on 20th January to decide how to celebrate the Republic Day in our center. We all sat together and decided for the program. At first at 8 am a "Prabhat Feri" was organized and we all visited near about our place with Tricolor flags in our hands and shouted patriotic slogans.

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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.

Milk Distribution in the Rohingya Community - Noushad

Delhi: My name is Noushad. I am 12 years old. I live in a refugee camp near Kalindi Kunj in Delhi. I belong to the Rohingya refugee community. My family came to India in 2012. We are originally from Myanmar but due to war in our country my family came to India. We moved to a lot of places before we came to this camp in Kalindi Kunj. There are a lot of Rohingya families living with us here. There are many children in the camp. There are also non Rohingya families living nearby. They are from different parts of India. We have made our houses with whatever scraps material we could find around the camp. There is no running water in the camp. We have to wait in line to get water. It is difficult to get water here. When we came here we did not have any documents with us. The United Nations High Commission for Refugees has given us identity cards. That has helped us to get admission in schools.

Apne Aap Women Worldwide came to our camp recently. Khushboo didi from Apne Aap introduced herself to us. She told us about her organization and what it does. They take weekly classes in the community. I love attending these classes. They teach us a lot of things. There are so many fun activities that are planned for all the kids in the camp.

On one sunny afternoon, Khushboo didi came to the camp with many boxes. We all ran to greet her.

She asked us to collect all the children of the camp and gather together. We all collected around her. She made us sit in lines. When all of us were seated, she told us that she came bearing gifts for all of us. Everyone got excited. She then asked who all liked milk. Many kids raised their hands. I do not like to drink milk. She gave us a colourful can of milk. It did not look like it had milk inside. She then told us that good people from Lotus Dairy had sent these milk bottles for us. She urged us to try the milk. When I tasted the milk I was expecting it to taste bad like all milk does but to my surprise, it tasted wonderful. I was told that it is flavoured milk. It was so tasty that we all finished the milk within seconds. I want to thank Lotus Dairy and Apne Aap for such a tasty gift and wish to have more in future.

We have made our houses with whatever scraps material we could find around the camp. There is no running water in the camp.

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



Mrunal Thakur attends special screening of Love Sonia in Kolkata

Kolkata: Mrunal played the lead role in the film.

The special screening was organised with Apne Aap Women Worldwide, which is a charitable trust in India.

The special screening of Love Sonia aimed to raise awareness on the perils of global sex trade and the rising vulnerabilities of the last girl.

Mrunal said: "I spent time walking the streets of Sonagachi with survivors of prostitution from Apne Aap. I saw their humanity in the middle of the all the exploitation. It has changed me forever. I saw prostitution is an absence of choice. I was able to play my role so well because of what I learnt from the women."

Remembering her experience from the shooting experience of the film, the 26-year old actress told IBNS, "I was living their life which was difficult but imagine there were so many girls who get sold and raped in each and every second. The thought itself gives me so much trauma that I despised male touch but the fact is that through this

film, one can become a voice of so many voiceless (girls). I am glad their lives may get changed through my acting and profession (due to the film)."

Apne Aap founder Ruchira Gupta said: "The making of Love Sonia was unique. The director and actors spent time with survivors of prostitution from my NGO, Apne Aap, treated them as knowledge experts and learned from them every step of the way. It has resulted in a film that truly reflects the dynamics of the global sex trade."

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We all were very excited when we got the invitation from Apne Aap to be part of the program on the very day. We were present on the spot. All the press from Kolkata was present at the screening. Mrunal also was there and she met us. We watched the movie along with Ruchira Di, Mrunal Thakur and all the visitor and members of Apne Aap. The film showed us the reality of life and once again we felt the pain of our life but we enjoyed the film and the people whom we met. Unlike other films, it did not show that things were not as they were. It reflected well on the realities of our lives. We will remember the day and the movement forever.

We met the gathering and they congratulated us. The press took many photographs of us With Mrunal, Ruchira di, and others. Press interviewed all about the film. We expressed our gratitude to all the team members, cast members and specially A

Apne Aap, without whom we wouldn't have been exposed to such a life changing opportunity . Hope again will get chance to act in many films likes Love Sonia with Ruchira di's blessing.

**We watched the movie
along with Ruchira Di,
Mrunal Thakur and all the
visitor and members of
Apne Aap Women World-
wide.**

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After the completion the “Prabhat Feri” we all stood in row and the National flag hosted by the senior members and our teacher Mohammad Ali Rasool. We all sang the national anthem. Patriotic songs were also sung on this occasion. Speeches were delivered by the members of organization and we also delivered speeches. Sweets were distributed among us. Prizes for the painting competition, Speech competition, Game competition and other cultural activities distributed to us by the organization side. We all enjoy our national festival and thanks to Apne App for providing us this kind of space and support.

Pooja Kumari

Kishori Mandal

AKC, Uttri Rampur, Forbesganj, Bihar

Patriotic songs were also sung on this occasion. Speeches were delivered by the members of organization and we also delivered speeches.

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After an hour rally, we returned to the hostel at about 11 am. Then we started the cultural activities there. A stage was prepared and a mike was arranged for the program. There were 150 guests who arrived for this occasion. A lot of fierce speeches were delivered by our teachers and guests on the occasion of National Girl Child Day on the betterment of girls, child marriage and women empowerment etc. After the speeches welcome song was delivered by me and my three friends. Chanika, Aaishwarya and I presented a song related the girls education. Then our ten friends present a dance on a motivation song. One of our friends delivered her speech on “Beti Padhao Beti Bachao” Our three friends sung a song on dowry system. We produced many songs, slogans, poems, dances and a short play on this occasion for three hours. We all read our poems, showcased our paintings to the guests and prizes were distributed for the best three. At the end of the program we all took an oath to not accept early marriage and not to receive or give any dowry, not to differentiate between boys and girls

and well educated to our daughters to improve our society.

Praveen Sir, Sanju Didi, Madhu Didi, Principal of the middle school, teachers, our warden Chanda Kumari, Vijay Sir, Nurani Didi and our parents were present as the guest on this occasion. They all appreciated our efforts and wished ua a very successful life in future.

We all enjoyed the program and are thankful to our hostel administration and especially thankful to Apne Aap Women Worldwide organization to provide this kind of space to us.

-Anjali Kumari

Class- VII, KGBV Simraha

Poems

Books

My best friend is a book
That doesn't give me a weird look
It is like a golden door
That takes me to the land where I
have never been before.

Suhani Kumari
Class- VII, KGBV, Simraha

Three Little Kittens

Three little kittens, they lost their mittens,
And they began to cry:
"O mother dear,
We fear, we fear,
That we have lost our mittens."

Gaytri Kumari
Class- VII, KGBV, Simraha



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