



RED LIGHT DISPATCH

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DELHI, KOLKATA, AND FORBESGANJ (BIHAR)

To Abolish Child Labour -Sultana Khatoon

Kolkata: I'm Sultana Khatoon, a student of B.A second year in Khidderpore College. Also, I am a member of the Sanitary Napkin Making Unit in Apne Aap Kolkata Centre. In Apne Aap, I am member of the team to mobilize girls and women against sex trafficking by raising my voice and utilising my gained knowledge. I started in the organisation with sewing training, then I joined Computer Classes, and now I am working with Sanitary Napkin Making Unit. My mother is working as a help. I'm from economically backward family. I used to be depended on my mother's salary. Whenever my mother was not well, I used to work as a help in her absence. I face lots of hardship, but I did not give up on my studies. I aspire to become an art teacher. I live close to Munshiganj which is a red-light area. I want to fight sex trafficking hand in hand with Apne Aap. My dream is to teach and abolish child labour-- every child has the right to education. We all are capable of making a difference.

Attending Creative Craft Workshop Radhika

Delhi: My name is Radhika. I am 10 years old. I live in Delhi in Najafgarh. I belong to the Singhi community. Our community does not have concrete homes. We live in makeshift huts which are made of scrape that we collect. Only a few households have concrete one room structures they call home but due to the large size of families, most members sleep on cots outside their homes.

We cook outside on *chulahs*. The women in our community sell toys to earn money. The children collect

rags and firewood from the surrounding areas. Many families go to temples to collect food that is distributed there.

I attend classes conducted by Apne Aap women worldwide in the community. We recently had an art class in the community. We were all told to get a handful of pulses from our homes. All the kids gathered together with lots of colourful dals. Some also got rice with them.

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Meeting a UNICEF officer Mamta

Bihar: My name is Mamta and I am a member of Apne Aap Women Worldwide. I attend sewing class here and getting the training of sewing and cutting the cloth. I am earning some money by learning sewing from here so that it helps in my studies. We live in small weaver's community of Bhagkohalia Panchayat of Forbesganj. I have five siblings. My father is a farmer and mother is a housewife. My whole family is dependent on father's farming earnings and his monthly income is very low. My brother works as a tuition teacher and teaches

other children, which earns some income and gives support to my father. We also try to reduce the financial burden of father by doing some small work.

I am associated with the organization from last year i.e. July 2018 and I am learning the work of sewing. I have also participated in a lot of training here, which is organized by the organization for the empowerment of the girls and women from time to time.

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Human trafficking within borders especially challenging issue: U.S. report *Sriram Lakshman*

The U.S. State Department has released its 2019 Trafficking in Persons (TIP) report, highlighting the need for action against domestic trafficking in human beings. India continued to be placed in Tier 2 on the country trafficking scale. “There are 25 million adults and children suffering from labour and sex trafficking all over the world – including in the United States and, indeed, in this very city in which we’re sitting here today,” U.S. Secretary of State Michael Pompeo said at Thursday morning’s report launch at the State Department, with First Daughter and presidential adviser Ivanka Trump and other administration officials and diplomats in attendance. The 2019 report highlights the national nature of trafficking: in 77% of the cases, victims are trafficked within their own countries of residence, rather than across borders. The number of victims trafficked domestically was high compared to foreign victims being trafficked in all regions of the world except Western and Central Europe, the Middle East, and certain East Asian countries, as per the report. Victims of sex trafficking were more likely to be trafficked across borders while victims of forced labour were typically exploited within their own countries, the report says, citing International Labour Organisation (ILO) data.

“These designations — Tier 1, 2, 3 — aren’t just words on paper. They carry consequences. Last year, President Trump restricted certain types of assistance to 22 countries that were ranked for Tier 3 in our 2018 TIP Report,” Mr. Pompeo said.

The TIP report’s conclusion stresses that while much has been done since the Palermo Protocol (an international framework to tackle trafficking, established in 2000) in terms of countries building legal frameworks to prosecute traffickers and provide care for survivors, more needs to be done, especially in terms of tackling domestic trafficking. “...addressing human trafficking at home also takes political courage — in inspecting local sectors and industries, investigating official power structures that may condone or facilitate such activities, and ending impunity for crimes that have long been seen as accepted local and cultural practices,” the report says.

Categorisation on efforts to meet minimum standards The report categorises countries into three groups based on the Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TVPA), U.S. legislation enacted in 2000. The categorisation is based not on the magnitude of a country’s

trafficking problem but on efforts to meet minimum standards for the elimination of human trafficking. The report contains country narratives and category designations for all countries, including the U.S. (Tier 1). India was placed (i.e., remained) in Tier 2, which comprises “countries whose governments do not fully meet the TVPA’s minimum standards but are making significant efforts to bring themselves into compliance with those standards.”

“The Government of India does not fully meet the minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking; however, it is making significant efforts to do so. The government demonstrated overall increasing efforts compared to the previous reporting period; therefore India remained on Tier 2,” the report said, highlighting efforts by the government to crack down on trafficking, including convicting traffickers, “initiating a high-profile investigation into one case that allegedly involved officials complicit in sex trafficking at a government-funded shelter” and raising awareness around trafficking. The report also highlighted the government’s failures in this regard. “The government took some action following reports of government complicity in forced labour and sex trafficking, although the systemic failure to address forced labour and sex trafficking in government-run and government-funded shelter homes remained a serious problem. The government did not report information on investigations, prosecutions, and convictions of traffickers, or on trafficking victims identified and referred to care... Authorities sometimes penalised victims for unlawful acts their traffickers compelled them to commit,” it said.

The recommendations for India include amending the definition of trafficking in Section 370 of the Penal Code to “include forced labour trafficking and ensure that force, fraud, or coercion are not required to prove a child sex trafficking offence,” and to establish Anti-Human Trafficking Units in all districts with dedicated funding and clear mandates

This article was originally published in the Hindu. On June 21, 2019

Representing Apne Aap at the Roundtable on Child Labor *Anahita Mir*

Delhi: On the occasion of International Child Labour day, I represented Apne Aap Women Worldwide in a Roundtable conference at the Constitution Club. The roundtable was organised by Action Aid India with support from British High Commission .

Almost three years have passed after the new amended Child Labour Prohibition and Regulation Amendment Act, 2016 (CLPRAA, 2016) has come into force. In this context participants at the roundtable discussed various issues related to child labour, the progress made after the enactment of CLPRAA and the scope for improvement. Besides, discussed the Trafficking of Persons (Prevention, Protection and Rehabilitation) Bill, 2018, the legislation which is closely related to child labour and attempts to cover all the aspects which were not covered under Bonded Labour Act, Immoral Traffic Act, Juvenile Justice Act and some section of IPC. This much needed legis-

lation has not come into force yet, even after several consultations, reviews and modifications.

I spoke in a panel on Indian Laws where I discussed the limitations of the The Trafficking of Persons (Prevention, Protection and Rehabilitation) Bill, 2018 .

Child Labour activists like Swami Agnivesh were present at the roundtable and spoke at length about the need to end child labour and put children into school. All the participants said that there is a need to build the synergy among all stakeholders. All the diverse right based groups should come together and build a strong campaign to highlight the plight of child labourers. Specific points emerged like redrafting the list of hazardous industries, need to regularised the home based work and need more data on children involved in home based work. It was an enlightening experience.

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

Living under a Bridge
Rukhsar Khatoon

Kolkata: My name is Rukhsar Khatoon. I am 9 years old. I live in Hasting's under the bridge. My parents also live with me under the bridge. I study in class 3 in Municipal Corporation School. My father works as a driver and my mother is a housewife. We are five members in my family. I have two more siblings and I am the eldest daughter.

It is very hard for my father to take care of family members. He is the only earning member of our family. He hardly earns 6000 rupees per month. Apart from food it is very hard for him to provide us with education.

From the last 7 months I have been associated with Apne Aap Women Worldwide. I have been studying here since then. Apart from studying here, I also learned dancing and drawing in the dance and art classes. I draw many pictures which are appreciated by all.

After completing my school education I would like to take admission in Art collage to develop my artistic abilities. I want to train to become an artist.

In future I would like to be an artist and want to establish myself as a famous artist. I want to become successful and take out my mother out from the red light area and want to keep her in a safe area where she can live without fear.

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.

Storytelling Session: Never be greedy
Deepa

Delhi: My name is Deepa. I am 12 years old. I study in MCD school in Najafgarh. I attended a storytelling workshop conducted by Apne Aap Women Worldwide. Me and my friends were very excited to attend the workshop. We gathered in the courtyard of a house in the neighborhood. There were already many kids there. We all sat facing Didi from Apne Aap. She told us that she is going to tell us about a King who lived in a far away land called Greece. The story went like this:

In ancient Greek, there was a king named Midas. He had a lot of gold and everything he needed. He also had a beautiful daughter. Midas loved his gold very much, but he loved his daughter more than his riches.

One day, a satyr named Silenus got drunk and passed out in Midas' rose garden. Believing that Satyrs always bring good luck, Midas lets Silenus rest in his palace until he is sober, against the wishes of his wife and daughter. Silenus is a friend of Dionysus, the god of wine and celebration. Upon learning Midas' kindness towards his friend, Dionysus decides to reward the king.

When asked to wish for something, Midas says "I wish everything I touch turns to gold". Although Dionysus knew it was not a great idea, he granted

Midas his wish. Happy that his wish was granted, Midas went around touching random things in the garden and his palace and turned them all into gold. He touched an apple, and it turned into a shiny gold apple. His subjects were astonished but happy to see so much gold in the palace.

In his happiness, Midas went and hugged his daughter, and before he realized, he turned her into a lifeless, golden statue! Aghast, Midas ran back to the garden and called for Dionysus. He begged the god to take away his power and save his daughter. Dionysus gives Midas a solution to change everything back to how it was before the wish. Midas learned his lesson and lived the rest of his life contented with what he had.

The moral of the story is that we shouldn't be greedy. We also did a role play at the end of the story. We had a lot of fun acting and laughing. I am looking forward to doing this again.

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My First Day

Kolkata: My name is Meenu Mondal. I am living in Munshiganj red light Area. I am 50 years old. I come from Chakda in West Bengal. I lived there with my parents and siblings. I had seven siblings – 2 sisters and 5 brothers. My father was a daily wage labourer and my mother was a house wife. My father earned very little money and due to that we lived in abject poverty. We lived through financial crisis most of the times.

My parents were worried about my marriage as we were many siblings. A man came to my house and asked for my hand in marriage. My mother arranged my marriage to that man. He was good to me and my parents and we could not gauge his intentions. We got married and came to live in Kolkata.

A few days after coming to Kolkata I got to know that he had sold me to someone in Munshiganj Red Light Area. I was trapped in the brothel. Many a times I tried to run away from there but was not successful.

I refused to entertain any customers who came, but no one helped me there. I was tortured by them in various inhuman ways.

Once I visited Apne Aap's center I saw so many helpless women and girls like me. Also visiting there I was inspired and decided to join to Apne Aap.

I have been working with Apne Aap women worldwide since 2019. I got very much inspired by staff of Apne Aap. I am happy to work with Apne Aap. Thank you to Apne Aap.

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There was some green dal, some yellow, red and also brown. We were also given match sticks. We all got a sheet of paper. First we made drawings on our sheets.

Then we were told to cover the drawings with glue. We then stick different dals to the drawings like colours. I made a bird on my sheet. I put brown pulses on it. I also made her beak with yellow dal. I made the bird's legs and wings with match sticks. Then we let our drawings dry in the sun.

We all took turns to show our drawings to each other. There were some very beautiful drawings. Someone made a mountain, a doll and a garden. Some little kids also made flowers. It was a wonderful learning experience. I will try to make more drawings like this at home. I am thankful to Apne Aap for conducting such creative workshops in our neighborhood and help us learn many interesting things.

I made a bird on my sheet. I put brown pulses on it. I also made her beak with yellow dal. I made the bird's legs and wings with match sticks.

Becoming a Teacher *Rakhi Kumari*

Bihar: My name is Rakhi and I am associated here with Apne Aap Women Worldwide organization in IGP class for receiving the stitching training from May 2017. My mother's name is Smt. Anju Devi and fathers name is Shri Rameshwar Mandal. I lived in near railway Colony Forbesganj. My father is a fourth grade railway employee and earns a little to run the family. I am from a very poor family. I have two brothers and two sisters and I am the younger one. I completed my graduation this year and continue the higher study now. I am now preparing for the govt. job and want to become a teacher and teach the poor students free of cost.

I have admitted here on July 2017 and continue to learning stitching from last two years. I have learnt a lot here. I gathered the cloths from adjoining houses and stitched it and earn money from it which I spend on my study. I am reading enough and hope that the dream to become my teacher will be realized very soon. I have seen a lot of poverty and because of my education too there has

been a lot of trouble. After becoming a teacher, poor children who are being deprived of education are free to read them and want to help them. After becoming a teacher, poor children who are being deprived of education are free to read them and want to help them. I want to do this important work for the poor people of the society by becoming a teacher.

After coming into the organization Apne Aap Women Worldwide, I have also got a lot of help in understanding things. After coming into the institution, I have also got a lot of help in understanding things through which we have borne great confidence and courage. I can no longer hesitate to do any work. There is a lot of confidence in me now that we have got here from the institution. I am thankful to the organization for all these and I feel honored to be the member of it. Thanks a lot to the organization Apne Aap Women Worldwide to providing us this kind of support and space.

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We have received lots of information from these training programs and we have increased courage and confidence. On June 20, we found out that on 25th June there is a meeting for us. This meeting was with a woman officer of the UNICEF and in that we would be given detailed information to the programs being run by them for the empowerment of women and adolescents and I was chosen by the institution for this work. I was very scared and quite nervous. All friends were raising my courage but I was still scared. I did not go out of the way before and had not met any outside people and did not even talk about it. Madhu Di, Praveen Sir explained me a lot and ended my fear. Now I was full of courage and zeal and with good preparation.

The meeting was held at the organization's office from 11 am on June 25, and we all 50 girls present there on the time. Gargi Banerjee came from UNICEF and Tinku Khanna was also from Apne Aap organization. The meeting started on the time and the session of introduction first started and every-

one introduced themselves on rotations. After that my only turn was to tell about the program and I also told everything well. Everyone was praising me and all this seemed good to me. After that the other girls also told about the program, how the organization's effort makes us girls stronger. This is a motivational and inspirational one for everyone. At first I was scared too much but after that my fears ended and I felt very courageous inside. All this has been possible only after coming to this institution and for this we all thank the organization. For all the people from the organization who have tried to empower the girls and women, we are thankful to the organization and those people for this.

Such a great work done by the organization Apne-Aap Women Worldwide for the empowerment of women and girls.

Mamta

IGP Class, Forbesganj, Bihar

Poems

Little Seed

I plant a little seed,
In the ground,
Out comes the sun,
Big and round.
Down come the rain drops,
Soft and slow,
Up comes a flower,
Grow, grow, and grow.

We see Leaves

We see orange,
We see brown,
We see leaves,
On the ground.
We see yellow,
We see red,
We see leaves,
Above our head.



56, Third Floor,
Anand Niketan
New Delhi

Phone:
+91 11 24119968

E-mail/Web:
contact@apneaap.org
www.apneaap.org

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