



Kindled Spirit

igniting hope & freedom...

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NEWSLETTER } December 2016

Against Human Trafficking

www.kindledspirit.org.uk

Save The Date Kindled Spirit Dinner 2017

Kindled Spirit will be holding its third charity dinner on Thursday 22nd June at Stratford Manor Hotel. The event is great fun with games, auction and an opportunity to savour the wonderful cuisine of Itihaas, the award-winning restaurant from Birmingham.

Companies can use the event to entertain clients and reward employees. Tables seating 10 are available, but we also want to attract individuals or small groups of supporters who want to champion the cause and have a great time.

Email: info@kindledspirit.org.uk for more details.



95% *of all victims trafficked experience physical or sexual violence.*

\$32bn *Estimated Human Trafficking Trade per annum*

161 *Countries effected by the abhorrent crime of human trafficking*

Welcome

As you will see on the following pages we had great success with our October awareness campaign. We reached out to over 12,000 people directly in the restaurants, shops or through social media. We also reached out to thousands more with our half hour long interview on BBC Radio. One of our posts was particularly successful, entitled **"Happy Diwali - 1000s of Young Girls Will Not Be With Their Families This Year"**. As we know, thousands of young girls are held against their will in India and across the globe. At times of family celebrations, this message seems very poignant.

Which leads me nicely to my last message: Christmas is soon approaching, so why not take a lead from our post, why not make a Xmas donation. Each donation goes towards the work we undertake in India through our partner Kshamata, who provide professional support, education and training to rescued girls, who can then go on to lead independent lives.

Happy Christmas to you all and hopefully see you at our charity dinner in June 2017.

Milan Zarac



Spread A Little Xmas Cheer

As a way of celebrating Christmas, why not make a donation to Kindled Spirit, where you know your donation will help us provide continued support to some of the most vulnerable girls in society.

Click on the Donate Now button on the homepage of our website.

www.kindledspirit.org.uk





STOP PRESS

Indian Government Drafts New Anti-Trafficking Bill.

The Indian Ministry of Woman and Child Development has issued a new comprehensive draft Bill that introduces severe punitive measures for trafficking of all kinds. The draft bill spells out a range of offences, expanding the very definition of trafficking. The new list of offences includes trafficking for the purpose of bonded labour, begging, bearing a child, under the pretext marriage, using as a human shield or child soldiers.

The penalty for most of these crimes is a fine of £1,000 to £10,000 and a jail term of anywhere between seven years to life imprisonment. Similar offences include causing serious injury to the victim that could lead to her death or suicide or causing life threatening illness or sexually transmitted diseases. The penalty and sentences are enhanced in the case of repeat offenders.

Source: *The Indian Express* – September 2016

Now comes the hard, but important part, once the bill is passed, it must be enforced.

This is an example of why raising awareness is so important; it puts pressure on governments to change laws. Well done to the Indian and International NGOs for keeping up the pressure and well done to Narendra Modi's government for listening.



The Achievement Continues – Thanks To You

In our last newsletter we let you know about the involvement of Kshamata in organising a number of events and activities designed to support girls who are held in government shelter homes. These activities included Art Workshops, Soft Skills Training and Fashion Design Course. The events were hugely successful, involving over 300 girls. As a result Kshamata has been able to grow its presence and influence in a number of rescue homes including two homes specifically run for the care of minors (girls under 16).

The key message being that in 2013 when we first got involved with Kshamata they were supporting 10 girls, today that number is nearly 500. That can only be achieved by funding, your kind donations lead to more counselors, social workers and vocational trainers being employed, they are critical to support the girls through the early months of trauma and anger management and to provide the goal of independence.

Please keep your donations coming.

We will provide a full update on the progress of the work in Mumbai in our next newsletter, however if you wish to learn more about recent activities, please go to our website, where we have published an abridged version of the Kshamata annual report.



Awareness Campaign – A Great Success

On 1st October Kindled Spirit launched its first major awareness campaign to coincide with the Indian festival of Navaratri, which celebrates Durga, the mother goddess, the campaign ended on 31st October, a time when Indians across the globe were celebrating Diwali, the festival of light.

The campaign started with a great boost; Sainsbury's allowed us into their Dorridge store, where we had a stall, shoppers had their bags packed and were treated to traditional Indian dancing performed by two young ladies, Manasa and Sanjana Devalla.

The following day Amit Mashru (charity supporter) and Richard Cribb (trustee) were interviewed on BBC Asian Network, the national radio station focusing on Asian issues. The interview lasted a full 30 minutes and was conducted by journalist and presenter Sheetal Parma. The full interview can be found on Youtube and will be loaded on our website.

During the campaign more than 20 restaurants across the UK allowed Kindled Spirit to place posters in their restaurants and tent cards on their tables, raising awareness of the campaign.

On 16th October Pradeep Devalla (supporter) ran The Great Birmingham Run, raising over £900 for the charity. In addition, Suneel Kumar (supporter) arranged a 10k run in the state of Andhra Pradesh, India, for 35 employees of Pinion Services; a UK based professional services company with offices in India. This event actually took place on 12th November and raised a whopping £4,775 for our cause.

Finally there is nothing like a samosa sale to get the mouth watering. Employees at National Grid arranged two events that have raised a further £500 to date, with another planned in Warwick early December.

The whole awareness campaign was underpinned by social media promotions on Twitter, LinkedIn and Facebook.

"The awareness campaign has been a great success" said Sital Chandarana (trustee) "it is heart warming that so many people have got behind us, helping to get the message out there about the horrors of child trafficking. We are grateful to all the runners, the donors and also the big names like Sainsbury's, National Grid and BBC who

allowed their staff to support the campaign. A big thanks to all of them."

**Donations can still be made via BT Mydonate at:
www.kindledspirit.org.uk/how-can-i-help**



Contact us:

Email: info@kindledspirit.org.uk

Web: www.kindledspirit.org.uk

