



Kindled Spirit

*igniting hope & freedom...*

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# NEWSLETTER } December 2015

*Against Human Trafficking*

[www.kindledspirit.org.uk](http://www.kindledspirit.org.uk)

## Cycle India Over A Number Of Breathtaking Stages

At the Kindled Spirit Charity Dinner in June this year we announced that we have joined forces with another anti-human trafficking charity, Childreach International, to arrange a charity cycle ride around India. The event commences in October 2016, finishing in the vibrant city of Mumbai in February 2017.

The cycle ride is over 10 individual legs recognising people's work and personal commitments. The cycle ride is being arranged under the banner of Stop Slavery. Stop Slavery is the brainchild of the two organisations that wish to tackle this problem from both ends of the spectrum by organising major, physically challenging fundraising events designed to raise awareness and help support our charitable work.

### The Challenge

India is a beautiful country with a huge diversity of religions, languages and cultures and a population of 1.3bn people. Its heritage is one of the oldest societies in the world. In amongst all that beauty and culture lies the dark side of child trafficking on an industrial scale. However, it is the sheer vibrancy and beauty of the country, which is the backdrop for our first Stop Slavery Challenge.

We have teamed up with global adventurer James Ketchell, who to date is the only person to have rowed the Atlantic Ocean single handed, climbed Everest and cycled around the world

Childreach International focus on making sure that children from India, Nepal and other parts of the world have access to good quality education and understand their rights.

Kindled Spirit focus on funding organisations, primarily in India, who support the survivors of trafficking, having been rescued from their captors and illegal employers.

unsupported. James will lead teams of cyclists from around the world, through India's most breathtaking scenery including the desert of Rajasthan, the foothills of the Himalayas, the backwaters of Kerala and the beaches of Goa, finally completing the journey in India's business capital, Mumbai which sadly is also the enforced home of many victims of trafficking.

We are looking to attract corporate and individual sponsors and cyclists from around the globe.

To learn more go to: [www.stopslavery.org](http://www.stopslavery.org)

### If I Am Not Cycling – How Can I Help ?

- Help us secure corporate sponsorship by introducing us to members of your business network
- Print off the attached poster and take into your local cycle shops and ask them to display the poster in their shop window
- Make your local cycle club aware of the event
- Organise your own cycle ride in the UK and donate funds to Stop Slavery – try getting match funding from your company
- Nearer the time raise awareness of the cycle ride and encourage work colleagues, friends and family to make a donation through Mydonate

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

Welcome to our third Newsletter, our last newsletter came out just before the annual dinner, which I am glad to say was a great success; take a look at the write up in this publication.

We are also pleased to bring you an update from Mumbai, where the team at Kshamata are doing wonderful things, many girls are now benefitting from their care and presence. It is great to know that the financial support you give us helps Kshamata expand their services to the benefit of such vulnerable people. Read more in this newsletter.

Finally we are launching our biggest project yet. At the dinner in June we announced that we are arranging a sponsored cycle ride around India with global adventurer James Ketchell. We really hope everyone will get behind this project in some way, even if you are unable to participate there are still many things you can do, see the front cover for more details.

**Wishing you all a Merry Christmas and New Year from the Kindled Spirit Trustees.**



## An Alternative to Christmas Cards

Instead of sending the traditional Christmas cards, which go on the mantelpiece for a few weeks then end up in the re-cycling bin, why not make a donation to Kindled Spirit and let everyone know by email. Your donation would have a lasting effect.

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

[www.kindledspirit.org.uk](http://www.kindledspirit.org.uk)







# Charity Dinner 2015

**The 2nd Kindled Spirit Charity Dinner took place on 18th June at Stratford Manor Hotel in Stratford-upon-Avon. Once again we were blessed with lovely weather and so the 180 guests were able to enjoy their reception drinks and canapés on the terrace, accompanied by the beautiful jazz music of George Northall, who is a great supporter of charities in India.**

The event was introduced by Pritpal Gill (Trustee) and Pia Carvalho (Supporter), who explained the outline of the evening. Bharti Patel, CEO –ECPAT, spoke on current anti-trafficking measures followed by Richard Cribb (Managing Trustee) and Pritpal who gave an update on the progress that has been made at Kindled Spirit's sponsored project in Mumbai, operated by the Indian based charity Kshamata. A video interview was shown of Bharathy Thaliani, CEO – Kshamata, with Richard during his visit in February this year; Bharathy was able to report good progress and thanked the guests for their support.

With the serious side of the proceedings complete, the guests were invited to play the fundraising game True or False hosted by

Martyn Ball (Trustee). The game went down to the wire and two of the guests, Gill and Craig, fought long and hard to win a case of champagne; it was speed that counted in the end and Craig went off with the prize.

Steve Samways (Supporter) introduced the Grand Raffle Draw and the hi-tech Silent Auction. Guests then enjoyed a wonderful Indian dinner from the award winning Itihaas restaurant from Birmingham.

When dinner was finished more fundraising activities took place; Table Bingo and the Live Auction hosted by Steve and Milan Zarc (Trustee). This only left the Grand Raffle Draw to be made and the auction winners to collect their prizes.

Dilip Jina (Trustee and Finance Manager) said, "we have had another wonderfully successful event and for me to be able to announce that we have raised £16,000 on the night is fantastic – it is beyond our expectations". Martyn Ball added, "we have now 'set a standard' for the event and we are so grateful to all our sponsors and guests for making it such a successful evening".

# Kshamata Chosen To Supply T-Shirts To US Clothing Brand – Raven + Lily

**For years workers from the slums of India have been involved with revenue earning projects, selling arts and crafts to help make a living.**

However we believe this is the first time that rescued girls and women have been involved in such an activity. The prestigious US brand Raven + Lily has engaged Kshamata to provide T-shirts embellished with sequins and other ethnic designs. This is a major step forward for Kshamata and the girls and is testament to the huge effort undertaken to train the girls in textile work at the Skills Development Centre in Mumbai. It is another example of how financially sustainable the support model is, in addition, by undertaking

fee paying work the girls self esteem and overall confidence grows.

The project employed 31 girls to fulfill the order; Kshamata now employs a number of girls on a full time basis to run their Enterprise schemes. Bharathy Tahaliani – CEO Kshamata says “this opportunity has been wonderful for us and the girls, many rescued victims believe there is no alternative way of making a living and return to the commercial sex industry, our Enterprise scheme is another route out for them and provides a long term sustainable solution”.



## The Evil Trade Continues...

On 28th September the Mumbai police raided an apartment in the Lokmanya Nagar district of the city, where they rescued 5 females, including two minors from the hands of commercial sex traffickers, the girls had been forced to work from the premises for the previous 5 months. Two women who ran the business from the apartment were arrested and charged. The police anti-human trafficking division had received a ‘tip off’ and was able to plan and execute the raid successfully.

*In the past year Kshamata has engaged with 350 girls in 6 shelter homes, where they provide counseling and life skills/vocational training.*

## The Art Of The Possible

As part of its engagement with shelter homes, Kshamata came up with the idea of a drawing competition for girls, with awards for the winners. In all 337 people across 9 shelter homes participated in the competition named Antarang. 32 girls were awarded prizes. The winners were offered training at Kshamata’s Skills Development Centre, or, for those who wished to pursue academic studies, sponsorship and mentoring.



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