







# 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 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.



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## 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](http://www.kindledspirit.org.uk/how-can-i-help)**



## Contact us:

Email: [info@kindledspirit.org.uk](mailto:info@kindledspirit.org.uk)

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

