



**Kindled Spirit**

*igniting hope & freedom...*

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# NEWSLETTER } March 2020

*Against Human Trafficking*

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

## Calling All Students and Job Seekers

Kindled Spirit is an anti-human trafficking charity that raises awareness of this crime against humanity and raises funds to support the young female survivors in India. We partner with a small charity, Kshamata, based in the city of Mumbai. Kshamata undertakes much needed work to support rescued girls, through counselling, life skills / vocational training and ultimately leading to career options and self-sufficiency.

Kindled Spirit is proud to launch its new mPower Project. The initiative is aimed at students seeking a place at university or people seeking a new apprenticeship or job role. It is clear that universities, employers and society look favourably on people who contribute some of their time to help others. By supporting the mPower Project, contributors will be able to include us in their Personal Statement or CV which will help their application stand out from the crowd.

### The Problem

Human trafficking, or modern-day slavery, is an abhorrent crime that affects over 50 million people and 160 countries across the globe - 50% of these are children.

Human trafficking is second only to the international drugs trade in terms of criminal profitability. The sale of human beings generates \$100bn per annum for organised crime

groups, more than the combined profits of Microsoft, Intel, Google, Nike and Starbucks.

Most trafficked girls are between the ages of 9 and 14, tragically 80% of these end up in the commercial sex industry.

### The Situation in India

According to the Global Slavery Index 2018, more than 8 million people are entrapped in slavery in India today. Slavery is illegal in India, but due to the complex social infrastructure, continues on an industrial scale.

It is estimated that up to 100,000 girls are trafficked in India each year, either from within the country or from Nepal, Myanmar or Bangladesh.

Children tend to be trafficked into the commercial sex industry, forced marriages, or brick kilns / factories.

Charities and government officials in India work hard to combat the traffickers, but due to the sheer scale of the problem, the government care homes are often full. The girls cannot find work so they fall back into the hands of the traffickers and the cycle of abuse repeats.

This is where we come in.

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

\$100bn *Estimated Human Trafficking Trade per annum*

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

# We Need *Your* Help

*We need YOUR help with two things:*

**RAISING AWARENESS OF THE ABUSE OF HUMAN RIGHTS AS A RESULT OF ENFORCED HUMAN TRAFFICKING**

**RAISING FUNDS TO ENABLE US TO REHABILITATE THE YOUNG FEMALE SURVIVORS OF TRAFFICKING IN INDIA**

*We do not wish to limit people's creativity, but some of the ways you can help us:*

- use your social media network to raise awareness of Kindled Spirit and what we do
- organise social events or challenges which will help to raise much needed funds
- if you are at school or college, ask your parents, friends or teachers / lecturers to get involved

The more people you get involved the better. The goal should always be to raise awareness and increase donations.

Engaging with the mPower Project will help your personal progress and development and will also support some of the most vulnerable girls in our global society.

## Global Adventurer

- James Ketchell

*Endorsement*

Global Adventurer and World Record holder, James Ketchell, has thrown his weight behind the project. James says "The mPower Project is a fabulous idea. Supporting a charity is a great way of making you stand out from the crowd, which can help you move to the next stage in your life. My corporate sponsors make it clear that they support me as a result of the work I do to help charities.

By signing up to the mPower project you are not only giving yourself significant material to improve your personal statement, CV or DofE submissions, you're also helping some of the most vulnerable girls in our global society."

CHALLENGE - ACHIEVE - INSPIRE





# YOU REALLY CAN

# MAKE A DIFFERENCE

# AND SEE IT

Kindled Spirit and Kshamata are small charities and therefore very transparent, it is easy to see how your support has a direct impact on these vulnerable girls. To date we have helped over 750 girls get back on their feet. Below are three 'real life' testimonials from girls who have been rescued by the authorities in Mumbai and ended up with a placement with Kshamata. Their stories illustrate the reason why Kindled Spirit and Kshamata 'do what we do' and give these vulnerable girls a new start in life by enabling a fulfilling and meaningful existence, read on ....

## Priya's story

I was trafficked and sold by my brother-in-law when I was very young. I ended up in a brothel in Bhivandi red light area. I begged for help but in vain. Gradually, I submitted to it as I had no hope of escaping. Some years later, I was rescued in a police raid and placed in Shanti Sadan Rehabilitation Home.

Kshamata gave me counselling and helped me overcome my anger issues, brought about by my treatment in the brothel. They also taught me how to sew and found me some tailoring work, which I loved. I decided I wanted to become a professional tailor, so Kshamata raised enough money for me to buy my own sewing machine. Now I earn my own living altering clothes. Kshamata provided the supportive environment I never had when I was younger. They have allowed me to build a life for myself that I could only dream of a few years ago.

## Asha's story

After being rescued from traffickers, I was placed in the Bhivandi Observation Home and joined the life skills and literacy training program run by Kshamata. I also completed basic training in sewing skills. At this time, I was very quiet and shy. I turned 18 in January 2019 and was referred to Kshamata's Residential Training Centre. I felt I had come to a different world where I could be myself. I've made good friends here and I'm no longer shy!

I learned English and studied Maths and other subjects. As part of my training I attended exhibitions and events, which I really enjoyed. I loved meeting new people and hosting visitors at the Training Centre, so Kshamata enrolled me on a Hotel Management course. I've now got a work placement in a 5-star hotel in Mumbai. I'm enjoying every moment and can see a positive and bright future for myself.

## Priti's story

After being trafficked and rescued I was left with no confidence and very low self-esteem. Kshamata helped me talk through my terrible experiences. Initially I struggled with how to live the rest of my life. Kshamata gave me training in a range of skills so I could decide what to do next. I chose to study fashion and eventually became a professional fashion designer. Last year, having designed an outfit for a model (she told me it was beautiful), I had the confidence to walk the catwalk with her.

I saw Kshamata helping other girls in my position, and decided I wanted to give something back. I devoted my time, skill and energy to helping women with a past similar to mine. I have now trained over 150 women in sewing, baking and fashion design.

I can't thank Kshamata enough for giving me a bright and dignified future.

“I learned English and studied Maths and other subjects. As part of my training I attended exhibitions and events, which I really enjoyed.”



## Next Steps

Hopefully this article has spurred you on to act. Please use your social media network to get the message out there about the great work that Kindled Spirit and Kshamata undertake. Also, if you are planning to help us raise funds by holding an event, please let us know at:

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

*Remember you can download our full mPower Project briefing pack and poster templates to advertise your event. These can be obtained from our website:*

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

The Amazon logo, consisting of the word 'amazon' in a lowercase, bold, sans-serif font with a curved arrow underneath it.

# smile

You shop. Amazon gives.

**Kindled Spirit is registered with Amazon Smile, that means you can donate to Kindled Spirit without it costing you a penny, so long as you link Kindled Spirit to your Amazon account.**

Each time you make a purchase on Amazon, logging on via the Amazon Smile interface then the donation made by Amazon will be donated to the charity. To find out more and how to register, go on to the Amazon website and click on Help and enter Amazon Smile - it is very simple to register.

**Contact us:**

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

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