

KINDLED SPIRIT 10 YEAR REPORT



Kindled *Spirit*

igniting hope & freedom...



03

-Our Beginning
-Other Things We Have Done



04

People We Need
to Thank



05

-History of Kshamata
and Why the Partnership



07

-Impact and
Sustainability



08

-Funds Transferred
-What Does the Future
Bring?



09

-How You Can Help
-Board of Trustees

OUR BEGINNING



Kindled Spirit was founded by Richard Cribb in 2013 after he read the book 'A Walk Across the Sun' by American author Corban Addison. Richard was profoundly affected by the book, which centred on child trafficking in India, a country he has visited many times and has grown a huge affection for. He read the book whilst in India and remarked to a friend of his that he was dining with in Mumbai, that on his return to the UK, he would speak to a number of like-minded colleagues and would set-up a charity and see how we could support victims of human trafficking, without any idea how that would work. That dining experience was to be a game changer, as his friend Praveen mentioned to Richard, that his cousin had recently formed a small NGO in Mumbai, focussing on supporting trafficking victims.

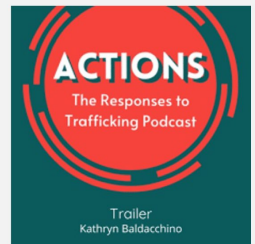
Having returned to the UK and gained support from his colleagues, the Board of Trustees was formed. In February 2014, Richard returned to Mumbai and met Praveen's cousin Bharathy Tahiliani who took Richard to visit her charity Kshamata, the Hindi word for 'Ability'. The partnership was born. Over the next few years the team at Kindled Spirit organised fund-raising events, primarily charity dinners where a number of corporate sponsors purchased tables, attended the events and supported fund-raising games and auctions of donated gifts. The inaugural dinner was held on 12th June 2014 at Warwick School, a relationship that has lasted to this day, attending and speaking at the event was Global Adventurer James Ketchell and former CEO ECPAT – Bharti Patel. We held 2 further successful dinners in 2015 and 2017. There is no doubt that the funding provided to Kshamata in the early days enabled Bharathy to focus on developing her unique rehabilitation model and build the charity, she will always be grateful to the supporters of Kindled Spirit.



OTHER THINGS WE HAVE DONE

In July 2014 Richard Cribb and James Ketchell attended the premier of the movie Sold at the London Film Festival. The film is based on the book by Patricia McCormick and tells the story of a young Nepalese girl being trafficked into the commercial sex industry in India. An all too common event in real-life, a very depressing story, but a beautiful film and book. It was a classic star-studded evening, with the movie's actors and director in attendance, Gillian Anderson and Jeffrey D Brown respectively. The movie was produced by Emma Thompson and Jane Charles, both involved in the anti-trafficking movement in their private lives.

Our 2016 Diwali campaign was boosted by an interview on BBC Asian Network. Richard Cribb and Amit Mashru (a long-term supporter) were interviewed for circa 30 minutes by journalist and presenter Sheetal Parma, about the subject of human trafficking in India and how Kindled Spirit working with its partner Kshamata can help support and rehabilitate the victims, once rescued. In March 2021 - Richard Cribb and Carole Chick (Secretary - Kindled Spirit) were interviewed on the Actions Podcast by Kathryn Baldacchino. Kathryn has been an important part of the anti-human trafficking movement for a number of years, working for the Red Cross as Head of Anti-Trafficking. A couple of years ago she launched Actions Podcast to discuss the subject of human trafficking and modern-day slavery, her interview centred around the work of the charity.



PEOPLE WE NEED TO THANK

James Ketchell

Global Adventurer James Ketchell has been a loyal supporter of Kindled Spirit; in 2019 he raised funds for the charity when he gained a Guinness World Record for being the first person ever to circumnavigate the globe in an open cockpit gyrocopter. In 2022 James went on to raise further funds when he and a small team crossed Greenland on Skis. Another aspect to this challenge was that James encouraged others to take part in their own challenge, whatever that might be. During the build-up to the event, James was speaking in a number of schools across the country, a number of those rose to the challenge, as did others. We are so grateful for James' support, he raises the profile of Kindled Spirit when he undertakes his talks in schools and corporates globally.

Corban Addison

Richard was made aware of the book 'A Walk Across the Sun' by someone he met at a social gathering, her name Emily Scaysbrook. On return from Mumbai, Richard reached out to Emily and told her of his intention to set-up the charity, her book recommendation being a life-changing experience. Emily responded by saying 'Did I mind if she let the author, Corban Addison, know?' - it transpired that she worked for Quercus, the publishing house. After a few days Corban got in touch and has been with us on the journey ever since, sending over autographed copies of his book for auction, but also 'message videos' for use at our fundraising events. He also supports us via social media.

The Team at Paperbridge

The husband and wife team; Jay and Surya Yadla from Paper Bridge based in Leicester have been with us from the outset. Their creative flair knows no bounds, from logo design, to our stunning website, newsletters, and much more. Much of the work donated as their contribution to the cause, we are so grateful to them.

Pradeep Devalla

On 16th October 2016 Pradeep ran the Great Birmingham Run on behalf of Kindled Spirit, we are grateful for his efforts.

Suneel Nadella Kumar

In November 2016 Suneel organised for a 10k run in his home state of Andhra Pradesh for employees of professional services company Pinion. Thank you to Suneel and all at Pinion who took part.

National Grid Employees

In December 2016 employees at National Grid organised a samosa sale. Thank you to the team at National Grid.

Finance Team at Volvo Warwick

On 2nd September 2017 a team of 4 set off to complete a Wolf Run - which stands for Woods, Obstacles, Lakes and Fields ... as you can imagine a messy affair, but great fun. Thank you, Volvo Team.

Kings High Pupils

In December 2017 the staff and 25 pupils at Kings High School Warwick organised a bag packing service for one day in Morrisons supermarket in Leamington Spa. A big thank you to the staff and pupils at Kings High who have supported Kindled Spirit over the years with various fundraising activities.

Helen Matthews

First time author Helen Matthews who provided autographed copies of her book 'After Leaving the Village, a novel about the dark and dangerous world of human trafficking. The book has had a re-launch recently and is now called 'Girl Out of Sight' – available on Amazon. Also, Helen has another book featured in our April 2022 Newsletter, it is titled 'A Girl in the Van' a novel with a major sub-plot about 'county lines' a pernicious form of modern-day slavery, also available on Amazon.

Ishaan Shah

A remarkable young man, who at the age of 13 set-up his own anti-slavery initiative Stolen Dreams, Ishaan is a youth activist, a part of a young movement who hold politicians and authorities to account on the issue of combating modern-day slavery. Richard Cribb and Carole Chick interviewed Ishaan about his work which is available on our YouTube channel. Ishaan is only too happy to promote the work of Kindled Spirit and Kshamata.

Hajira Piranie

We are grateful for the input by Hajira; she set up a fundraising page for Kindled Spirit, with a focus on Eliminating Violence Against Women. This followed her recent visit to Kshamata in Mumbai, where Hajira experienced a wonderful welcome and her visit much appreciated by all at Kshamata and Kindled Spirit.

Ian Hucker

On 12th September 2021 loyal supporter Ian Hucker ran the 26-mile Brighton Marathon in aid of Kindled Spirit, a wonderful achievement, we are very grateful to him as this activity requires a huge amount of effort and personal commitment.

Emily Gardner and Millie Cribb

As part of the James Ketchell Greenland Challenge, the two young ladies from Kings High School, Warwick undertook a 10km walk, thank you to them.

Souter Foundation

The trustees of the Souter Foundation for their support through a number of grants over the years.

Joe Parkhurst and Charlie Cribb

Exeter University students Joe and Charlie followed the Volvo Team in the completion of the Wolf Run Challenge, albeit 5 years apart. This too was part of James Ketchell's Greenland Challenge. Thank you, lads.

Saratoga Charitable Foundation

Jack and Pam Jolley from Saratoga Foundation for their continued financial support and advice.



HISTORY OF KSHAMATA AND WHY THE PARTNERSHIP

In 2011 Bharathy Tahiliani – Founder and Managing Trustee of Kshamata was working as the Aftercare Director for International Justice Mission in Mumbai and as a professional social worker, Bharathy would participate in various rescue missions and help the rescue teams from IJM and the authorities, who would rescue young women from the notorious red light / brothel areas in the city, place them into government care homes and have continued contact with them. When she spotted that the team had rescued the same girl 3 times, she realised the model was broken, so decided to act. Her thoughts were that the women returned to the cycle of abuse because they had no alternative ways of supporting themselves, the traffickers realised this and further exploited the situation. Bharathy knew that her approach had to be different, so without any means of funding, she set-up Kshamata. Over the next two years, the funds gradually started trickling in, she piloted and developed the foundation of the rehabilitation and reintegration model, the end game always being dignity, independence and self-reliance for each woman.

The initial two years, post registration of the charity, proved tough for Bharathy, as she tried to establish Kshamata with very little funding, she reached out to friends and family to see if they would help, they did. In 2013, Bharathy was able to offer support to 4 young women at the charity's premises (which was leased in Mumbai), which they called the Kshamata Transformation Centre (KTC), this was to be the 'kick-start' the charity needed.

In early 2014 we were introduced; the rest is history as they say. Bharathy went on to grow Kshamata to be the NGO of choice for the state government to send young women to, at the same time Bharathy 'tweaked' the model so she and her team could enter government care homes and support many more women, as they would not have to provide residential space. This approach has proved so successful and has led to over 1200 young women being supported, an achievement unthinkable in 2013. In 2018, Kshamata had out-grown its premises and was able to secure a new building, increasing residential capacity by nearly 3-fold.

We partnered with Kshamata largely due to the infectious personality of Bharathy, but also, she is an experienced professional in this subject, something the team at Kindled Spirit were not. Therefore, for us to set-up in Mumbai would have exhausted our limited resources, but focussing our funding to help Kshamata grow seemed the obvious approach and fully supported by the Board of Trustees at both charities.

Today our exclusive partnership is still in place, formally managed through a 'memorandum of understanding'. It was so important to Kshamata that we were able to provide additional funds (seed funding) to the NGO at that most crucial time. The Board of Trustees at Kindled Spirit have committed to the exclusive arrangement with Kshamata for the foreseeable future.



Kshamata Launches - Social Enterprise - Kshamata unlimited

As part of the integrated rehabilitation and reintegration model that Kshamata deploys, vocational skills are taught to ensure the young women have an alternative personal funding stream, which leads to their financial independence and therefore less likely to fall victim to re-exploitation. In 2019 Kshamata decided to turn this aspect of the model into a social enterprise, whereby surplus funds can be re-invested into the enterprise to create more products or used to help fund the charity's' activities in the long run. This is a classic story of 'start small, think big'. The underlying philosophy was to focus on quality and as a result, Kshamata engaged with designers who gave their time voluntarily or charged a reduced fee as a result the social enterprise soon gained a good reputation for quality. Over the last few years the enterprise has grown, moving into its own premises in April 2022 and expanding its product range, with the ultimate accolade of branding its own goods in May 2022. The pace has been slowed down significantly due to COVID and ensuing impact. On the one hand, the plan is to look at long-term profitability, but the more established reason for having such an initiative is to create livelihood and income generation opportunities. In other words, this initiative gives Kshamata the impetus to be inclusive and not just consider only those victims who can quickly move into the job market. Kshamata Unlimited adds strength and versatility to the reintegration model.



IMPACT AND SUSTAINABILITY



The immediate impact the girls experience is the feeling of safety, compassion and aspiration. They continually participate in the construction and development of their rehabilitation and reintegration plan which makes the overall programme more effective and ensures positive engagement with the young women.

A summary of the impacts are as follows:

- Over 1200 girls / women have been engaged long-term in our rehabilitation programme, either residentially or through government shelter homes. Of them, around 200 women were from Bangladesh.
 - Circa 300 women now have sustainable livelihoods, supporting independent living for themselves.
- More than 350 girls have been taught English, increasing their job prospects and remuneration packages, and their ability to navigate Indian & international society.
 - Circa 175 girls have been trained in computer literacy.
- Kshamata has formed over 19 group stay units (shared accommodation) where a number of girls live together in a private dwelling, sharing residential space and house-hold expenses.
- Over 100 women have been involved with income generation activities under the Kshamata's in-house social enterprise, where they undertake the manufacturing of products, and are involved in sales and administration. They learn the full cycle of small business management - a useful, transferable skill.
 - Kshamata has facilitated the return of circa 50 girls to their homeland of Bangladesh
 - Due to the nature of abuse, the women receive health care (both mental & physical) with trauma counselling, therapies, regular checks, medicines and hospital referrals if necessary.

FUNDS TRANSFERRED

Over the years we have transferred a total of £48,509, this figure would have been greater had it not been for the global pandemic, which severely restricted our ability to raise funds, but since lifting the restrictions we are now putting in place a programme of fundraising activities.

WHAT DOES THE FUTURE BRING?

It would be lovely to think that in a few years' time, organisations such as Kindled Spirit and Kshamata need not exist, because we have eradicated human trafficking, sadly that will not be the case. The illegal, global trade of Human Trafficking has firmly placed itself as the second most profitable crime for organised crime groups, second only to the international drugs trade. Current estimates suggest the global profit from this vile trade is worth circa \$150bn per annum, to put that in perspective that is roughly the same as Apple Inc. in 2021. Human Trafficking is a global phenomenon, here in the UK the numbers of people affected by modern day slavery has risen to around 100,000 people according to a collective of anti-slavery, third sector professionals. In India the trade continues to rise too, with victims becoming younger to satisfy illegal demands.

With that in mind we shall continue with our work and plan a number of fundraising events in 2023. Our collective long-term goal is to increase the capacity of Kshamata Unlimited, thereby raising funds to enable expansion of the charity into another Indian city and to replicate there, the Mumbai model.



HOW YOU CAN HELP



We are always looking for volunteers to help us raise much needed funds; this can be through direct donations or undertaking a sponsored activity / challenge linked to our Just Giving page link below. If you would like to help us, please do get in touch. Our details are on our website www.kindledspirit.org.uk or email richard.cribb@kindledspirit.org.uk

If you volunteer to undertake a sponsored challenge, then link it to our 10th Anniversary fundraising campaign page on Just Giving. Click on the link:

<https://www.justgiving.com/campaign/kindledspirit10>

Activities can include: cycle rides, walks, runs, swims, Wolf Runs, coffee mornings, cake sale, charity dinners, etc...
Donate to Us ... Without It Costing You a Penny
A great way to supporting us without it costing you a penny, is to shop via the on-line shopping platform Give as You Live, all you need to do is create an account, select Kindled Spirit as your chosen charity. The platform has over 4000 retailers subscribed to it.
You Buy they Donate
Sign up today at

<https://www.giveasyoulive.com>

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Founder and Chair



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