



Kindled Spirit
igniting hope & freedom...

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~ Carole Chick

NEWSLETTER

April
2026

Educating and Empowering Women

www.kindledspirit.org.uk

KINDLED SPIRIT'S 5TH CHARITY FUNDRAISING DINNER – OCTOBER 2025

On 16th October 2025, supporters, partners and friends of Kindled Spirit gathered at the Holiday Inn in Wigston, Leicester, for our 5th Charity Fundraising Dinner, what a fun evening it was. With around 160 guests in attendance, including many generous corporate sponsors and past fundraisers, the night had a real sense of shared purpose.

The evening was hosted by Kindled Spirit Trustee Hajira Piranie, who welcomed guests and set the tone for what would become an uplifting celebration of partnership and impact.

Charity founder Richard Cribb opened the evening with an update on Kindled Spirit's work over the past year, reflecting on how far the charity has come since its founding in 2013. Inspired by Corban Addison's novel *A Walk Across the Sun*, which first highlighted the realities of trafficking and exploitation faced by young women and girls in India, the charity has grown into a committed, long-term partner supporting transformative work in Mumbai.



Lord Lieutenant & Trustees

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

\$150bn Estimated Human Trafficking Trade per annum

161 Countries effected by the abhorrent crime of human trafficking

Editor's Note

The last few months have been very interesting. Last October we held our 5th Charity Fundraising Dinner in Leicester.

We were honoured to have as our key note speaker the Lord Lieutenant of Leicestershire, he gave a wonderful, motivational talk. Read more about the event in this newsletter. In January Carole and I went to India for a 3-week holiday, within that time we spent 4-days at Kshamata, it was great to see the progress made since our last visit, things have really moved on, read Carole's report in this edition.

Finally, we are pleased to announce we are extending our partnership with De Montfort University, we are launching our Ambassador Scheme at the university, so we hope a number of students will get on board and help fundraise and raise awareness of our work. If you know a young person who would be interested in joining our scheme, please do get in touch at info@kindledspirit.org.uk

Richard Cribb
Trustee



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Guests heard special video messages from both Corban Addison himself and Bharathy Tahiliani, CEO of Kshamata – our long-standing partner organisation based in Mumbai. Bharathy spoke about the importance of sustained partnership, explaining how long-term support enables meaningful change for survivors of trafficking and women living in highly vulnerable communities. Her message was a powerful reminder that real impact happens through trust and collaboration over many years.

We were honoured to welcome our keynote speaker, the Lord Lieutenant of Leicestershire, Mike Kapur OBE, CStJ FRSA, whose thoughtful speech struck a balance between reflection and encouragement. His words highlighted the importance of community action and the extraordinary difference that collective generosity can make.

Our next speaker, Professor Raghu Raghavan from De Montfort University, shared insights into an exciting and deeply important partnership and collaboration currently

underway with Kshamata in Mumbai. As Professor of Mental Health, Raghu and his team have been delivering mental health literacy workshops for Kshamata's trauma counsellors, the dedicated professionals who listen daily to the difficult and often heartbreaking stories of the young women they support.

Professor Raghavan spoke about the emotional toll this work can take and how equipping counsellors with coping strategies and psychological tools strengthens not only their wellbeing but also the quality-of-care survivors receive. He re-iterated, this is just the beginning, with further projects already being planned to expand this support.

No Kindled Spirit dinner would be complete without a little friendly competition. Long term supporter, Kevin Green hosted two fundraising games, including a particularly dramatic round of True or False, which kept guests guessing until a thrilling final question crowned the winner.

Meanwhile, guests were treated to something unique, a live conversation with global adventurer James Ketchell, who at the time was sailing across the Southern Atlantic Ocean, as part of his latest global challenge, at the same time; raising funds and awareness for Kindled Spirit. Thanks to his Starlink satellite connection, Richard was able to speak with James and his co-crew Loris live from the boat. Hearing about their progress mid-ocean was both surreal and inspiring. Upon completing the challenge, James will become the first person ever to circumnavigate the globe by land, air, and sea, an extraordinary achievement and will earn him another world-record.

Throughout the evening, guests also participated in an online silent auction, generously supported by donations from individuals and businesses. The regularly updated leaderboard added a buzz of excitement and friendly rivalry in the room.

One of the most moving moments of the evening came when Kindled Spirit Trustee Nusrat Hathiari shared her experiences from her recent visit to Mumbai. Nusrat spoke about visiting the Turbhe brothel community, where she met women trapped in modern-day slavery and witnessed both the harsh realities they face and the hope created through Kshamata's incredible work.

She described how Kshamata provides not only counselling and support, but also practical pathways forward, including micro-business initiatives that allow women to earn an income, rebuild dignity and create alternatives for themselves and their families. Her heartfelt account brought home the real-life impact behind the charity's mission and reminded everyone why continued support matters.

Nusrat then led a pledging session that generated incredible generosity from the room, helping raise vital funds for ongoing programmes in Mumbai.

The evening concluded with a closing speech from Charlie Cribb and Millie Cribb, who introduced Kindled Spirit's new Ambassador Scheme. Alongside university friends, they represent a younger generation of supporters already undertaking impressive fundraising challenges of their own, a hopeful sign for the charity's future.

Charlie and Millie then shared the highlight of the evening: together, guests had helped raise an amazing £16,000.

They closed by thanking everyone who made the night possible, the attendees, sponsors, prize donors, speakers and volunteers; whose generosity and enthusiasm continue to fuel Kindled Spirit's mission.



Stories from THE EDGE

Be warned, these are difficult stories to read, but they are very real and epitomise the issues that Kshamata are dealing with on a daily basis.



Taniya's Story

Taniya (name changed) is a 22-year-old young woman from Mumbai and a survivor of human trafficking. Her early life was disrupted by deception and exploitation, which led to severe violations of her freedom, safety, and dignity.

At a vulnerable age, she was separated from her support systems and placed in circumstances where she had little control over her own life. This period left her experiencing prolonged fear, emotional distress and a deep sense of uncertainty about the future.

Following her rescue, Taniya was brought to Kshamata's residential centre in Thane. This marked the beginning of a more stable and protected environment. In the early stages, she was quiet and withdrawn, finding it difficult to trust others or engage openly. Over time, the consistency of care and the structured environment allowed her to begin adjusting. Being surrounded by other young women with similar experiences helped her feel less isolated and more understood.

Gradually, Taniya began to participate more actively in daily life at the centre. She started to rebuild her confidence through routine, peer interaction and supportive guidance from the team. As she settled, she became more comfortable expressing herself and engaging in conversations, which helped her reconnect with a sense of identity beyond her past experiences.

At the Kshamata Transformation Centre, she took part in a structured rehabilitation programme focused on socio-economic reintegration. This included life-skills training covering areas such as health, nutrition, emotional awareness and relationship management. These sessions supported her in understanding and managing her emotions, as well as rebuilding decision-making abilities and personal confidence. Alongside this, Taniya engaged in vocational training, including tailoring and jewellery-making. She also contributed to production work within Kshamata's social enterprise, Kshamata Unlimited, where she was involved in making items such as bags. These activities helped her develop practical skills while also restoring a sense of routine, responsibility, and contribution.

While she has taken part in a range of training opportunities, Taniya has developed a particular interest in the hospitality sector. With support from the Kshamata team, she is currently undertaking a CRS (Customer Relationship Systems) course alongside a Diploma in Physiotherapy (DPT). She is also working on strengthening her English communication and broader professional skills, with a focus on future employment in customer-facing roles.

Step by step, Taniya has begun to rebuild her confidence and direction. She now expresses a clear ambition to work in the hospitality industry, with a goal of becoming a hotel manager in a five-star hotel. This aspiration reflects the progress she has made in rebuilding self-belief and planning for her future.

Taniya's journey reflects a gradual process of recovery and development supported by structured care, education, and vocational training. It demonstrates how sustained support can help survivors move from vulnerability towards stability and independence, at a pace that respects their individual healing process.



OUR VISIT TO KSHAMATA

BY CAROLE CHICK

Earlier this year Richard and I had the privilege of travelling to India where we spent four unforgettable days visiting our long-term partner charity, Kshamata, in Mumbai. Although we have supported their work for many years, nothing quite prepares you for seeing the full extent of the impact firsthand. The visit was inspiring, humbling and reminded me why this partnership matters so much.

Kshamata currently runs community centres in four Mumbai brothel areas alongside supporting more than 240 micro-businesses established by women in these communities. Our first visit, guided by Vaishali, took us to the Turbhe Brothel Community. The area carries all the visible challenges you might expect; poverty, overcrowding and vulnerability yet stepping into the Kshamata centre was something else. Managed by Reshma Kalamkar the space was vibrant, welcoming and full of energy. Women gather here not only for emotional support but also to work, learn skills and earn an income with dignity.

We walked through the community meeting women who had started micro-businesses with Kshamata's support. One had a sewing machine explaining how she now makes items both for local customers and for Kshamata orders. Another woman had a fridge, allowing her to run a small shop serving neighbours. Livelihood Manager Parmender works closely with each woman helping them design sustainable business plans with long term thinking.

The following day was a total contrast. We visited the Kshamata Transformation Centre: a residential space for up to 35 young women alongside counselling rooms and areas dedicated to their "Engage, Equip, Empower" rehabilitation programme. The atmosphere was joyful and welcoming. During a group discussion residents shared ambitions of becoming lawyers, doctors, fashion designers and even joining the military. It was wonderful to hear their positive future ambitions.

Accompanied by Darshana and Lata we also went to a big glossy shopping mall where we met three young women who had completed Kshamata's rehabilitation programme and were now thriving in employment. The first was a wonderfully enthusiastic young lady working in a modern restaurant. Her manager spoke warmly about her reliability, initiative and determination. She shared her dream of one day becoming a hotel manager and I have no doubt she will achieve it. We then visited two young women working in the VIP suite of a cinema complex, immaculately presented in their uniforms with a quiet confidence and pride. It was lovely to see them in professional environments building independent futures.

We also visited one of the Kshamata 'group stay' apartments, provided as part of Kindled Spirit's Safe Horizon initiative. This is where 5 young women live independently when ready to leave the Transformation Centre. They support each other and share the financial responsibilities with the reassurance

of Kshamata regularly keeping in touch to check everyone is ok and happy with the situation. Another great aspect of the Kshamata programme to ensure success before they move on to total independence.

After two intense days, we spent our third day relaxing with Kshamata CEO Bharathy Tahiliani, walking along the Malabar Hill Forest Walkway followed by a delicious civilised cup of Indian tea. It was a valuable time to reflect, catch up properly and discuss future opportunities. Moments like these remind us that partnership is not only about funding programmes but about shared vision and long-term commitment.

Our final day took us to government shelter homes where Kshamata provides regular counselling and rehabilitation sessions. Here we met young women rescued from trafficking situations, many of whom had crossed the border from Bangladesh. The presence of Kshamata staff brought compassion, stability and professional support into environments where it is desperately needed. Shelter homes enable Kshamata to reach even more young women at critical moments in their journey of recovery.

What stayed with me most throughout the visit was the total dedication of the Kshamata team. Every staff member we met, spoke with genuine pride and passion for their work. One told us, "it is a privilege to have such a meaningful job" and that sentiment seemed to echo across the entire organisation.

I returned home feeling deeply inspired and more convinced than ever that by supporting a charity that is so thorough in its care and support, together we really are helping to create pathways to freedom, dignity and opportunity for young women in Mumbai.



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CAROLE CHICK



AMBASSADOR Programme

Become a Kindled Spirit

Ambassador

Our Ambassadors are trained volunteers who support the fundraising activities of Kindled Spirit. This is for people who want to go the extra mile to help raise funds for Kindled Spirit

by organising fundraising activities, representing Kindled Spirit in their local area and helping to engage people with the work and aims of our charity.

What does being an Ambassador involve?

There are lots of different ways in which you can make a difference and support Kindled Spirit, here are a few suggestions:

- Organise a fundraising event; from a coffee morning to a Gala dinner - the opportunities are endless!
- Set up a small fundraising group or committee with friends, family or colleagues
- Give short talks or presentations to groups in your area about the work of Kindled Spirit
- Distribute collection tins to shops, cafes, restaurants etc. in your local community
- Source auction or raffle prizes for our supporter events
- Take part in an organised event to raise funds for Kindled Spirit

We do not expect every Ambassador to do all the above; just doing one or two things can really help. The depth of your involvement as an Ambassador is completely up to you.

Here is a quote from **Jack Wells** - University of Exeter, one of our existing Ambassadors, who has undertaken some incredible challenges on behalf of the charity.

"Being an Ambassador for Kindled Spirit means never failing to find motivation towards challenges that are in aid of their great cause. Failure never feels like an option when the essence of this charity is teaching people never to give up"

Together we can transform the lives of victims of trafficking in South Asia

Sign up by scanning the QR code on the image

For any further queries please contact us at info@kindledspirit.org.uk

Thank you,

Hajira Piranie

Mentor, Ambassador Programme
Trustee, Kindled Spirit



GIVE AS YOU LIVE

You can financially support the great work of Kindled Spirit and it does not cost you a single penny, that is Sign Up / Register with Give as You Live. You Shop, They Donate. With over 6000 retailers on their platform there is choice for everyone, but they also have many of our 'day to day' providers including energy companies, supermarkets, mobile phone providers and DIY stores.

All it takes is 4 easy steps...

1. Click this link to take you to the site <https://www.giveasyoulive.com>
2. Register
3. Select Kindled Spirit as your chosen charity (Charity Reg no. 1159146)
4. Start Shopping ... remember you need to go through the portal each time you shop, so save it in your 'Favourites'.

Thank you for your support.



... + 6000 more retailers !!



Contact us:

Email: info@kindledspirit.org.uk
www.kindledspirit.org.uk