



RED LIGHT DESPATCH

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Column

My Dreams

By Momal

Dharampura, Najafgarh: I am 18 yrs. old. I was learning Computer and now I learn English in Apne Aap. I dropped out of school in Class VI. I want to tell you about my audition, my first in INDIA'S DANCING SUPERSTAR. Apne Aap helped me for this audition. My family cannot support me to avail such an opportunity.

The place for audition was far from my place and a day before audition, Priyanka didi took me home so that we could reach it early in the morning. There was a long queue which grew up to 6000 by 3 PM. At the entrance, they asked for my ID proof. I did not have any ID, but Priyanka didi asked me to wait and went and got my ID made. I got the entry and we entered a place where candidates were waiting. It was decorated with huge posters of Gita Maa, Ritesh Deshmukh and Ashley Lovo. I took many photos of the place. I was so excited, so happy! And nervous too! My turn came after waiting for hours. I went in confidently and gave my audition. The judge, Rahul, read asked about Apne Aap as he read my profile. He said, "You are confident, the energy is good. But you need more practice. Better luck next time." I was so sad that I could not be selected. This opportunity taught me that how to give audition. I thank you, Apne Aap.

Criminal Law Amendment: Victory Celebrations for Getting 'Trafficking' Made a Penal Offence

By Pue Begum as dictated to Fazul-E-KhodaBin Mustapha

Kolkata: A week after the Parliament passed the Criminal Law Amendment Bill to make 'trafficking' a criminal offence mandating punishment to all those involved in pushing women into flesh trade, we women who have suffered from this heinous practice held a meeting to celebrate it.

We had campaigned for years for such a law. We had spoken out strongly for it, taped our statements and testimonies and sent them to the government through Apne Aap Women Worldwide, which had helped us raise our voice and made it possible for it to reach the government's ears. When the law was passed, it came as a victory after a long struggle.

The gang rape in Delhi on 16 December 2012 created an uproar in the whole country. There was

demand for strong action against perpetrators of any kind of violence against women, including trafficking: a demand which Apne Aap has been raising for a long time.

The common people and some NGOs including Apne Aap also protested and put pressure on the government to draft a strong law to punish those who commit crime against women. There were protest rallies and dharnas in Delhi and many other cities of India. As a result of this mass movement, Ministry of Home, Government of India formed a commission on December 23, 2012 headed by Justice J.S.Verma along with Justice Leila Seth and Gopal Subramaniam. This committee asked for suggestions from NGOs, Universities, and other organizations and individuals for any

(Continued on page 2)

HC notice to Bihar Govt

By Md Kalam

Forbesganj, Bihar: The Patna High Court notice to the Bihar government on a public interest litigation (PIL) that I had helped file on behalf of Apne Aap Women Worldwide (AAWW) gave me much satisfaction and encouragement and raised my morale.

When the PIL was being filed, people had warned me that it would not be wise to get into a legal battle against government departments and the Superintendent of Police. They said I should tell my organisation also not to do this. I

was apprehensive, because I had already been arrested once when I filed a complaint about the racket of trafficking of girls in a travelling mela.

In fact, when we activists of AAWW complained to the local police regarding the sexual exploitation of young girls in the mela, the police turned around and conducted brutal raids in the red-light area instead, and also slapped a false case of trafficking against key activists of the organisation.

(Continued on page 6)

New hope for victim's children

By Yasmeen (name changed)

Uttarpara, Kolkata: I am Yasmeen, mother of two daughters, Simran and Muskan. I am the daughter of a farmer near Canning. My father was a rich man, so he could send me to school and I was taken good care of by my family. When I was 13 yrs old, I fell in love with a Muslim boy. I ran away from my home, when I was just 14 years old and got married.

My father and family members did not accept it, but from the beginning I was very happy with my husband. After two years, I gave birth to a girl child. Suddenly, my husband's attitude underwent a change and he started beating and abusing me. My husband didn't want to accept the daughter as his child. Very soon, he stopped financial support. I was helpless and with the small kid. Sometimes, my husband used to come and stay with them for a few days. I tried to make him understand about his

responsibilities and try to make future plans for the child. But I realized my husband was just not interested in this.

Just after one year, I got another girl child. I was given a terrible beating and kicked out from

At present, both my daughters are quite happy there and they are doing well. I wish them all success.

home. Finally, I went back to her parents' place. I felt that I and my daughters were an extra burden for my parents. I walked out from the house without their permission only to come face to face with lots of problems.

I tried to get a job. I started working as a maid and used to earn Rs.1000.00 per month which wasn't

enough to take care of me and my children. I had many friends whom I requested to find out a better job. Very soon, one of the friends came with a proposal and I was taken by the lady to Sonagachi. Unknowingly, I reached the red light area Sonagachi and was trapped, but finally I accepted the fate to provide support for my children. After one year, from Sonagachi I shifted to Munshigunj, Kidderpore.

As a mother, I want to see that my two daughters have a bright future and a protected life. I came to Apne Aap with a prayer to save my children from the red light area and its environment. Apne Aap admitted my daughters Simran and Muskan Khatoon to continue their education along with computer, dance, music training. At present, both my daughters are quite happy there and they are doing well. I wish them all success.

(Contd from pg 1 "Criminal Law ...) measures to stop this kind of violence against women.

In this regard, founder president of Apne Aap Ruchira Gupta made some recommendations to the commission, especially on trafficking. There was no specific definition of trafficking in India although there was a specific law on trafficking [Immoral Trafficking (Prevention) Act- 1956]. She recommended that the definition of trafficking should be in our penal law. There were recommendations to increase the punishment for those involved in trafficking activities in any form.

The J.S.Verma Committee submitted its final report to the government on January 23, 2013. After considering its recommendations, the government prepared a bill, namely Criminal Law (Amendment) Bill-2013, which included the recommendation of Ruchira Gupta re-

garding Section 370 and 370A of IPC (providing definition of trafficking and punishment for trafficking) along with other relevant provisions, to ensure prompt action by the police officials (Section- 166A) and categorically making trafficking a criminal offence that is non-bailable, cognizable and triable by sessions court.

As Parliament was not in session at the time, the government brought an Ordinance which came into effect on February 3, 2013. When Parliament session began, it took up "The Criminal Law (Amendment) Bill - 2013". The Bill, with minor modifications, was passed by Parliament and became an Act when it received the assent of the President on April 2, 2013.

We women from Munshigunge, Khidderpore Red Light Area, who were involved in this long battle to include the offence of trafficking in

the new Criminal Law Amendment Act 2013, celebrated this victory in our group meeting. We had been giving our opinion on trafficking and voicing the plight of the women of red light area who were tortured by the traffickers and brothel owner, but the police administration did not take action against them, arguing that there were no specific provisions to punish the traffickers.

I along with other women from Munshigunge red light area like Ayesha Begum, Salma Begum, Sita Devi and others raised our voice against this and asked for a change in the law. We sent it to parliamentarians asking them to cast their vote to pass the new law. When we heard from Fazul the news that the Act was passed, we thanked Apne Aap and Ruchira Didi for supporting us and pressurizing the Government to pass a strong law in Criminal Law (Amendment) Act- 2013.

Op/Ed

Survivors of Prostitution Changed the Law

By Ruchira Gupta

In October 2006, a timid young woman in a bright blue sari named Kumkum Chetry, got up before a Parliament committee in India, and described being kicked, punched, abused and raped repeatedly. Kumkum was 32 at the time, and had been in brothels for 20 years.

I had brought Kumkum to Parliament that day as a leader of Apne Aap Women Worldwide, an anti-sex-trafficking organization I started with 22 women in prostitution in 2002.

I remember how Kumkum nervously twisted her sari and was too scared to look anybody in the eye as she told the committee about how the traffickers, brothel keepers and even the police had stolen her childhood. "At least four or five men used to rape me every night and used to consume my body as they wished – they would hit me, burn cigarette butts on me, pinch me and slap me."

Then Kumkum asked for justice, calling the committee to impose the most stringent penalties possible on traffickers, pimps and johns instead of the prostituted women themselves. "I want justice. I want every brothel-owner, agent and 'customer' punished severely – so that they pay at least something for taking away our childhood and our very lives. They can never replace what we have lost but unless they are punished severely, other girls and women will continue to be exploited."

I started Apne Aap originally because of the courage of women like Kumkum, and of Surekha, who I met a few years earlier. In 1996, 22 women who had been sold into prostitution, came to my rescue while I was filming a documentary about trafficking in the brothels of

Mumbai. The women surrounded me when a pimp held a knife to my throat. One of them, who I would later learn was called Surekha, said you have to kill us first. He slunk away and the women went on to set up Apne Aap to "get a room of our own, school for our daughters, a job in an office, punishment for those who buy and sell us, and protection from upper-caste gangs and the police."

On April 2013, India's Parliament took a step towards honoring requests from those women by making trafficking a penal offense for the first time in India's independent history with severe punishment for recruiters, transporters, agents, pimps, brothel managers and owners, landlords, financiers and clients.

It never would have happened without the courage of victims and survivors like Kumkum and Surekha, who overcame their fear and shame to speak about the exploitation in their lives and demand justice, in small meetings, large conferences, to the media, in courts and police stations, and to Members of Parliament.

Surekha took a delegation to the chief minister of Maharashtra in 2004, and eventually persuaded the authorities to train 3,000 police officers on how to investigate cases against traffickers, pimps and Johns and be more sensitive to the needs of victims when dealing with them in courts and police stations.

And it didn't stop there. I shared the story of Surekha's success with women in my own village in Forbesgunge, Bihar. The women belonged to a low caste community. For centuries Nat women had been used as prostitutes while Nat men worked as pimps. But led by Jamila

Bua, a survivor of prostitution whose daughter had also been prostituted, they too decided to organize under the Apne Aap banner.

Their first demand to the local authorities was to educate their daughters. 23 girls from the community were admitted into the Kasturba Gandhi girls hostel. The fathers -- and pimps -- resisted, with violence, but the women fought back. Seven of those girls have now graduated high school.

The struggle carried on again, this time to Kolkata which has India's biggest red light area, Sonagachchi. And to Delhi, Rajasthan, Mumbai and Bihar. Survivors of trafficking and members of Apne Aap held a tribunal for the National Commission for Women and petitioned the National Commission for Denotified, Nomadic, and Semi-Nomadic Tribes.

I went to the United National General Assembly and the UN Human Rights Council to speak on their behalf and share their knowledge to make policies for survivors all over the world. The message was the same: "the demand of victims and survivors of trafficking is accountability. They want those responsible for trafficking to be punished and stopped. They want interventions to focus on the irresponsibility of those who buy trafficked people such as buyers of prostituted sex and those "entrepreneurs" (traffickers, procurers, pimps, brothel owners, and managers, owners of plantations and factories and money lenders) who make a profit off trading in women and girls, boys and men."

More than 70 brothels have been shut down with our efforts. And as we succeeded, the backlash

(Continued on page 5)

Apne Aap's Recommendations for NAWO National Policy

By Anupam Das

The National Alliance of Women (NAWO) – a national network of women comprising of all progressive minded women's groups and institutions, NGOs, women workers, women's unions, individuals and others – has taken the initiative for developing a National Policy for Women and Alternate “Convention to Eliminate All Forms of Discrimination Against Women” (CEDAW) Report. In West Bengal it is a joint Initiative of NAWO West Bengal and Women's Studies Research Centre, Calcutta University. Several consultation workshops have been held in various states for recommending issues which are state specific. On 19th April 2013 a follow up of consultations was held at Calcutta University, Alipore Campus. Apne Aap participated along with other NGOs and West Bengal State Resource Centre for recommending points necessary to be included in the national policy of NAWO on violence against women. Apne Aap recommended:

1. The Amendment Bill has to criminalize the buyers of prostituted sex, otherwise the buyers will carry on buying sex with impunity. This finds no mention in Article 5C where it talks about creating legal provisions in the Combined Report submitted by India

2. The budget allocation for rehabilitation is very low. The NCRB report says there are 300 million women and children who are sex-trafficked. But the Report says only Rs.100 million has been allocated to NGOs for comprehensive scheme for prevention of trafficking and rescue, rehabilitation and reintegration of victims of trafficking and Commercial Sex Exploitation (CSE) under UJJAWALA. To make real change in the lives of women and children, more budgetary allocations will have to be made.

3. No mapping has been done to identify the vulnerable.

4. Rehabilitation of abusers is not done. Rehabilitation is focused on just the women but there is no rehabilitation scheme for people

who are sex addicts and sex buyers.

5. Apne Aap therefore advocates for four inalienable and essential rights of women, viz. (a) Right to Education (b) Right to Sustainable and Dignified Livelihood (c) Right to Safe and Independent Housing (d) Right to Legal protection

6. Constitution of advisory committee consisting of stake holders should be made compulsory in the statute for effectiveness of criminal justice system and better implementation of socially and gender oriented legislation like Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act- 1956, Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Rules 2003, The Prohibition of Child Marriage Act -2006 and Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act - 2012 along with Criminal Law (Amendment) Act - 2013.

7. Coordinated information is another objective of legislation. It cannot be achieved without a coordinated infrastructure. Otherwise, justice seekers will not get justice despite specific legislation.

OPEN MIKE SESSION

Najafgarh, Delhi: An open mike session was held with 28 girls on “courage” at Prem Nagar on 5-4-2013. These included all girls from Tamana group along with other girls who are being assembled into another new “kishori mandal” for a program with them aimed at women in prostitution and women at risk families.

The girls were told the meaning of courage - “HIMMAT” - and a discussion was held on the topic so that they understood the meaning of the exercise.

First of all, Shashibala, community mobilizer shared her

daughter's personal story to encourage the girls to share individual personal experiences and stories.

After listening to the story, girls were eager to share their stories and one of them, Barkha shared her story also.

Barkha said: I am 20 years old. I live in my in-law's house with my husband. I like to study but I dropped out after Class III due to family problems. But now I want to read that's why I joined Apne Aap.

When I was 19, I got married to Arjun. He is a very good person. I take every decision on my own. I

am a very bold girl.

One day I went to Najafgarh market for shopping for Diwali with my cousin sister. A man eve-teased my sister and passed a bad comment. I went to the man with sister and asked him why he was commenting on her. I spoke loudly and when some women saw the heated argument between man and me, they began to support me. Finally, the man said sorry to us.

I am very thankful to Apne Aap team that they gave me a chance to share my view with other girls and women of our community. Thank you.

New Beginning: Sonagachi children get admission in Ram Krishna Mission School

By Sahana Dasgupta

Keya and her experiences on admitting her child

I am Keya. I am 25 years old. I come from Budge budge where I used to work in a small factory. I have studied up to class VIII. When I was 15 years old, I walked out from my home and got married. But after a short period only, my husband left me and brought me to Sonagachi. I had no idea I would be pushed into such a job and my life ruined. At present I live in 24, Imam Box lane, Sonagachi, Kolkata.

Now I just want my child to get away from this place, grow up in a better place, get educated and lead a better life. Here in the red light area, for these children, access to mainstream education, health and protection services is blocked due to stigma. In their homes they are often abused or forced to leave or move out in social spaces outside their communities. They witness their mothers being beaten, humiliated by the clients, pimps, brothel owner. Adolescent girls are subjected to sexual abuse, harassment and pressure to enter prostitution. Boys are introduced to alcohol and substance abuse early in their lives. As a result of crowding and congested conditions, there is a lack of space for sleep, rest, study, or to cook and eat healthy food. Due to lack of child care for single mothers, the



My child will at least get a better environment to grow up. I feel happy to fulfil the dreams of my child as well as my own through him.

children just roam the streets aimlessly. They often get sick from the unsanitary conditions. Girl children, on the other hand, are increasingly vulnerable to abuse around the age of puberty.

At this time mothers begin to think of sending their daughters elsewhere, often by arranging for them to be married at a young age, as the mothers work throughout the day and are often unable to provide

a suitable safe place for their children. Many mothers are illiterate and therefore have their own limitations in supporting and understanding the demands of their children's schooling. Some boys become involved in sex trade either directly or indirectly as pimps or trafficking agents or with the local clubs in selling drugs.

I feel that with the help of Apne Aap, my child will at least not face these situations and will get a better environment to grow up. I feel happy to fulfil my child's dreams as well as my own through him. Whatever happened in my life was because of absence of choice but I never want my child to go through this. My child would get a chance to grow up away from the oppressive environment of red light areas, from a situation of exploitation where humans are treated as sex objects. Hostel life would help my child to make a new life for himself. He will get introduced to a disciplined and healthy life style. Getting admitted to school would enable my child to grow up in new environment where he can play, express his feelings, study, interact with friends and reveal his potentials rather than getting groomed to entertain customers as seen in brothels.

(Contd from pg 3 Survivors of ...)

became more vicious. Last year, one of Apne Aap's organizers was arrested on fabricated charges. The 14-year-old daughter of another leader was jailed overnight. But the women did not let up. They joined hands with other student groups, anti-trafficking organizations and women's associations to collect signatures for a petition with more than 15,000 signatures to the

President of India asking for trafficking to be made a criminal offence in India's law. A trafficking victim testified to the Verma commission set up after the December 16 Delhi rape, to make recommendations to end male impunity for sexual violence. Two hundred Apne Aap survivors joined a women's rally outside Parliament when the recommendations were being debated.

In addition, Apne Aap survivors from Kolkata, Delhi and Bihar sent taped testimonies to Delhi. I, and other Apne Aap members, played these to Members of Parliament, as they were debating the law.

On 3 April, the President criminalized the entire process of trafficking from recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbor and receipt, with severe punishment for all involved as part of

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Poetry Corner

बेटा और बेटी एक समान

अगर बेटा वंश है,
तो बेटी अंश है.
अगर बेटा आन है,
तो बेटी शान है.
अगर बेटा तन है,
तो बेटी मन है.
अगर बेटा वक्रिश है,
तो बेटी परस है.
अगर बेटा संस्कार है,
तो बेटी संस्कृति है.
अगर बेटा आग है,
तो बेटी बाग है.
अगर बेटा दवा है,
तो बेटी दुआ है.
अगर बेटा भाग्य है,
तो बेटी विधाता है.
अगर बेटा शब्द है,
तो बेटी वर्थ है.
अगर बेटा गीत है,
तो बेटी संगीत है.

नाम :- शिखा

उम्र :- १४

कक्षा :- ९

स्थान :- प्रेम नगर

(Contd from pg 1 HC notice to ...)

AAWW took up the issue with the Chairperson of the CWC, the NCPCR, the Chief Minister, NALSA, as also the senior police officers of the area, seeking their intervention for the rescue and re-instatement of the girls who had pushed into the sex-trade.

Finding none of their efforts bearing any fruit, AAWW approached the Patna High Court in a Public Interest Litigation, detailing its travails and seeking the implementation of the Constitutional mandate of Article 23, and the statutory provisions of the Immoral Traffic Prevention Act, 1986. It further sought the following directions to the State Government and local authorities:

- Appointment of Special police officers as required by ITPA for proper implementation of the law, and further directions that any raids conducted in red light areas must be accompanied by women social workers;

- Maintenance of proper Shelter homes in Bihar, as required by the law, and duly certified by the Social Welfare Board;

- Implementation of the directions of the Supreme Court in the pending PIL entitled Budhadev Karmakar vs. State.

When the PIL came up for hearing on 10.4.2013, a division bench of the Patna High Court noted with apparent concern the important issues of public interest relating to trafficking in women and children have been raised in this petition.

In view of the seriousness of the matter, the Court directed the State Government to file a detailed

affidavit sworn by an officer of the rank of the Principal Secretary, placing on record the following information for the perusal of the Court:

- Whether the State government has adopted a policy for curbing human trafficking, and the detailed contents of the said policy;

- If no such policy has been adopted till date, then by what date the State proposes to adopt such a policy, and what are the materials and issues it proposes to take into account while doing so;

- What are the mechanisms the State has put in place/ proposes to put in place to control human trafficking, including the rehabilitation of the victims of such trafficking;

- What is the approach of the State government to the victims of trafficking, that is, whether it perceives them as victims or criminals. In fact, the Hon'ble Court has used the term "Sufferer" in the place of victims. It may not be irrelevant to tell that the term "Sufferer" was suggested by a Survivor-Leader, Mohammad Kalam.

The matter will now come up for hearing on 17 June 2013, when the Court will consider such detailed affidavit in response by the State Government.

Apne Aap Women Worldwide is hopeful that finally the marathon search for justice for victims of trafficking will find a resonance in the Patna High Court, and in particular the children who are struggling to break free through getting an education which is a fundamental right under the Constitution of India, as well as a statutory right under the Right to Education Act, 2009.

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Home-coming

By Nandini Mazumder

New Delhi: As a sociology student I had read about, and discussed, society and those aspects of our society that desperately need to be changed. However, I was getting tired of the nice, air-conditioned conferences and seminars, so I decided to go back home and start working in Kolkata. I felt confident: I had a Masters degree from one of the best universities for the social sciences in India and I also had a burning desire to work with people. I wanted to address the important issues and contribute, even if in a minor way, to the betterment of their lives, and by extension, my own life. But I remained clueless as to what that 'work' might be. That is, what work will allow me to make this positive, if small, difference?

Then I chanced upon a job opening at Sanlaap, an NGO that fights against human trafficking. I wasted no chance and went for it. Luckily enough, I got the job and thus began my introduction and dialogue with the issue of human trafficking. I had heard of Apne Aap even then and remembered Ruchira's name. As I became engrossed in understanding 'Human-Trafficking', I recognised these people who were leaders in their own right as the pioneers in the battle against sex-trafficking in India. I longed to work for Apne Aap someday and learn closely from Ruchira about the ground reality of the ongoing battle they fight and the way forward in combating sex-trafficking.

In the April of 2013, I got the chance to realise this wish when I joined Apne Aap as a Program Associate. Apne Aap cultivated in me the sensibility that is needed to carry on this work in a professional and organised manner while introducing me to the alarming and painful realities of sex-trafficking. It is an uphill task that we as members of Apne

Aap have undertaken to develop as feminist-activists, courageous and committed in our fight to end the buying and selling of women. I slowly began to understand subtle cultural aspects that are particular to India and got introduced to the issue of inter-generational prostitution practiced by de-notified communities such as the Nat Community with whom we work in Delhi (Najafgarh) and Bihar (Forbesganj, Bihar).

Column Diary of a Social Worker

There was one little 10-year-old girl who broke down when she saw us, as her mother, a prostituted woman, was unable to come and collect her... It was summer vacations when most of the other children had gone home to be with their families.

The most humane and moving learning experience in the first two months was my first official trip to Kolkata, my home. On the day of our induction, we were told that our main aim is to work for the 'last girl' following the Gandhian principal of Antyodaya, or the upliftment of the last girl. This time when I reached Kolkata, at the height of summer, I was to visit two Ramakrishna Mission residential schools to meet the children, mostly daughters and some sons of prostituted women from Khidderpore and Sonagachi, two red light areas of Kolkata.

However, I was told that there is one school located 5 hours' drive

away from Kolkata and there are only two girls there. I had to decide whether to save that time or take the trouble of going all the way for only two children.

I chose to go and I am glad I did. There was one little 10-year-old girl who broke down when she saw us, as her mother, a prostituted woman, was unable to come and collect her. Her emotions were strong and tears came flowing down her cheeks. She cried with the terrible pain of missing someone as beloved as her mother, accentuated by the fact that it was summer vacations when most of the other children had gone home to be with their families. She was heartbroken and wept uncontrollably but we were slowly able to calm her down. By the time we were on our way back, she had a sunny smile on her face.

That day I felt content and happy at undertaking the 10 hours' drive up and down because that helped in bringing some consolation and feeling of being cared for to a little girl who would otherwise continue her lonely and invisible existence, unwanted and uncared, while her mother suffered in another burning agony, inside a small, dingy brothel in a merciless red-light area.

The little girl has already seen the harsh conditions that exist in red light areas, in brothels. She has undergone the deep agony of being born and brought up in a brothel, she continues to suffer as her mother is yet not free to come and see her because of the complex traps of a brothel. I ended up visiting all four Ramakrishna Mission residential schools where Apne Aap has admitted children from the red light areas where it works. These two months at Apne Aap truly feel like I'm returning home, back to my roots.

Did You Know?

- Human trafficking, the largest human-rights violation in the history of mankind, is the fastest growing criminal enterprise in the 21st century – a 9 billion dollar industry.
- It is the second largest criminal enterprise in the world, after drug smuggling and arms dealing.
- Human Trafficking is often run by organized crime.
- An estimated 27 million people are enslaved around the world this very moment.
- An estimated 13 million children are enslaved around the world today, accounting for nearly half of trafficking victims in the world.
- The average age of a young woman being trafficked is 12-14 years old.
- More than 2/3 of sex trafficked children suffer additional abuse at the hands of their traffickers.
- There are anywhere between 600,000 and 800,000 victims trafficked through international borders every year, which does not include the millions trafficked domestically within their own countries.
- According to estimates, approximately 80% of trafficking involves sexual exploitation, and 19% involves labor exploitation.
- A relatively large percentage of women and children who have been trafficked for the purpose of sexual exploitation will become HIV positive, as they experience a tenfold risk of contracting HIV.
- Trafficked children are significantly more likely to develop mental health problems, abuse substances, engage in prostitution as adults, and either commit or be victimized by violent crimes later in life.

(From Weave Inc: <http://www.weaveinc.org>)



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Red Light Despatch

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Organizing communities to end sex trafficking—every woman free, every child in school