

# Fighting child sex trafficking in India

Saving lives and breaking the cycle of crime with Justice and Care

A **UBS Optimus Foundation** Child Protection program

## Summary

45 million people are estimated to be in modern slavery. Human trafficking is one of the world's largest organized crimes generating estimated profits of USD 150 billion each year. It is possible to break this cycle of trafficking by mobilizing the justice systems to disrupt entire criminal networks. Bringing the perpetrators to justice and rehabilitating rescued children and their families, as well as emphasizing prevention in "hot spot" areas can make a real difference.

## The problem

India is the global hub of trafficking with almost half the world's slaves, estimated at 18.3 million. The majority are lured from their homes under false pretenses and then held in brutal captivity in city brothels. Traffickers are sophisticated and desperate to protect their highly profitable trade. Victims are traumatized and reluctant to provide evidence. India has the political will to tackle the issue, but the system is overwhelmed. There is inadequate policing capacity and the judicial system is under severe strain and not set up to deal with children. Vulnerable populations suffer from extreme poverty and cultural issues such as child marriage and discrimination against girls.

## The partner

Justice and Care has pioneered its approach in one of the most difficult locations. It has developed multi-disciplinary units, where investigators, social workers, lawyers and others are brought together to provide an end-to-end solution for victims. This has allowed it to build up a much deeper picture of the issue. It works closely alongside the authorities in information gathering, undercover operations, and the use of forensic evidence to bring successful prosecutions. Justice and Care's approach led to the successful prosecution of 39 traffickers – one of the biggest cases of its kind.

## The philanthropic solution

Justice and Care works closely with the Indian Government and police forces to

- support the State agencies in investigating and mapping entire criminal networks
- ensure the evidence is gathered to dismantle these networks
- create a powerful deterrent to traffickers by increasing the efficiency of the criminal justice system
- provide rehabilitation support to rescued children and their families, and to provide a positive future and prevent re-trafficking

## The evidence

Justice and Care has been a critical factor in many criminal investigations, and it is the preferred partner of the Indian Government. It has rescued 4,533 children, handled 339 prosecution cases, and trained 37,345 police officers, public prosecutors and community leaders. Support from the UBS Optimus Foundation will allow the first, much needed independent evaluation.

## Voices from the field

When Renuka was barely sixteen a job opportunity provided by Suresh a young man in her village, seemed to be a way out from a very desperate situation. He promised her employment in a beauty salon. Little did she realize that accepting his offer meant that she was to travel thousands of miles, crossing international borders to finally end up in a brothel. Renuka was locked up in isolation and kept hungry. She was badly beaten, traumatized, and raped repeatedly. She was then forced to have sex with 10-12 men every single day. She was never paid any money and did not possess any documentation. Three months after she was brought to the brothel, she was rescued in a joint operation by the police and Justice and Care. After ensuring her well-being and supporting her through the legal process, Justice and Care arranged for her to be repatriated, with continued support.

## Why support

Child sex trafficking in India is seen as an emotive and overwhelming problem by many people. Justice and Care offers an end-to-end solution that works to reduce the actual prevalence of the problem while rescuing victims.



Location	India
Target Group	Victims and those at risk of child sex trafficking
Partner(s)	Justice and Care
Grant total	CHF 500,000
Duration	24 months