

Women's Safe Haven

Status: In progress
Project Partner: 3 Angels Nepal (3AN)
Country Office: Asian Aid Australia
Duration: September 2010 onwards
Budget: \$300 000
Project Coordinators: Quentin Campbell
Rajendra Gautam (3AN)

What does this project aim to achieve?

It is estimated that up to 15 000 Nepali girls are smuggled over the border into Indian brothels every year. The Women's Safe Haven rescues and provides a safe place for girls and women who have been involved in the trafficking process.

One of the many tragedies surrounding the trafficking industry is that once a girl has been abused, her family is likely to reject her, not wanting to share in the shame that she suffers. Although what happened to her is not her fault, the girl will usually take the blame. This project targets the issue on a number of different levels; prevention, made possible through education, anti-trafficking booths on the India/Nepal border to catch traffickers in the act, and rehabilitation through education and vocational programs designed to give the girls a more promising future.

Who does this project help?

This project will directly affect girls who either have been, or were about to be trafficked.

The Safe Haven currently accommodates thirteen girls – already exceeding expected growth – but there are thousands more in desperate need of hope. Asian Aid is looking to purchase land to expand the facilities and allow for more girls to be rescued and given a second chance at life.

The educational radio programs also help an unnumbered mass of women and girls who become aware of the 'stranger danger' message and avoid being trafficked. Entire communities benefit from the prevention message simply by having their girls remain safe. There are some communities in Nepal where nearly every girl between the age of 12 and 21 has been trafficked.

Why has Asian Aid chosen this project?

The sex industry in Nepal is small but sadly growing – however in neighbouring India, it is booming. Girls from remote Nepali tribes are often targeted because they are fair skinned and usually uneducated. Without an education, girls are incredibly vulnerable to the tricks that traffickers use – false offers of jobs or marriage, luring them with promises of a better future.

Asian Aid is committed to protecting the vulnerable and upholding the rights of women and children. The scale of the human trafficking industry in Nepal and the humanitarian tragedies that unfold because of it are too terrible to ignore. Asian Aid supports this project because it combats the issue effectively and directly.



When will this project begin and/or end?

The Women's Safe Haven began in September 2010 and has been growing steadily since. The project is on-going and will remain in place as long as it remains relevant and effective.

How will this project be funded?

This project will be funded by Asian Aid Australia through donations made specifically to this project by our donors and supporters. It will be implemented by Asian Aid's partner, 3 Angels Nepal.

What can you do to help?

Asian Aid needs to raise \$300 000 towards the Women's Safe Haven for expansion and development. You can help us give hope today by donating specifically to this project. Please visit www.asianaid.org.au or call us on (02) 6586 4250 with your credit card details.

Opportunities to volunteer are limited within the scope of this project due to its sensitive nature. However, if you have training in psychology, counselling, medicine, nursing, or teaching, your skills may be of value to the Safe Haven. Call Quentin Campbell on (02) 6586 4250 + ext 1333 for more information about these opportunities please.

We value your practical contribution and continued prayers for the work Asian Aid does. We could not do it without you.

Thank you.

PA PO Box 333 Wauchope NSW 2246 Australia
P 02 6586 4250 F 02 9012 0827
E contact@asianaid.org.au W asianaid.org.au