

Transforming Lives Foundation

ANNUAL REPORT
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Shop No. 10/11, Blossom Arcade, Mira Road East, Thane – 401107, Maharashtra, India

Table of Contents:

- I. Message from the Chairman – Ranjeet Chouguley
- II. Message from the Founder and COO – Manohar Waghela
- III. The State Of Affairs
- IV. Who We Are
- V. Our Work
- VI. The Survivors – A Part of Our Family
- VII. The Road Ahead
- VIII. Our Team

Freedom is rarely seen as an item of value, specially since we are all blessed with abundant volumes of it. The true value of freedom lies in the eyes of a captive. We at Transforming Lives Foundation are fulfilling our mandate.

Every year as I look back at the numbers that the team has managed to garner I am amazed; not by the fact that the team could accomplish this feat but by the fact that even in 2015 the battle for primal rights, freedom is still a struggle for some.

We each have a part to play in ensuring that crimes against women and children not only drastically reduce but also that the survivors are given an opportunity of enjoying a life free from guilt and ridicule.

Each year I take tremendous joy in seeing the work of my team and I personally wish them and our supporters for embarking on this journey towards freedom.

*Ranjeet Chouguley- Chairman
Transforming Lives Foundation*

Over the years with my work in the field of Anti human trafficking I have witnessed the various atrocities carried out on children as young as 12 years old. It has been painful to hear their stories as I too am a father and have two daughters of my own. This has compelled me to take an active part in helping as many children to be set free from the clutches of some very perverse people.

It always irks me to know that these children are paying a price not for their wrongdoings but for somebody else's (parents, traffickers, pimps, madams) wrongdoing. It is our desire as a team to rescue and rehabilitate as many girls as we can.

In this year 2014, though the numbers may not be many, it has been a fruitful & fulfilling year. I was able to witness firsthand the fruits of the labour of our team as we saw successful rehabilitation of two of our rescued victims. I was ecstatic to meet them in their rehabilitated state, free from their past traumas and grateful for the chance given to them.

We will continue to work towards more lives being transformed in the coming years.

Manohar Waghela – Founder & COO
Transforming Lives Foundation

The state of affairs

Slowly and agonisingly a picture has emerged of a global crime that disgraces us all. Trafficking of women and children is an organised crime that pains the very core of society; not to mention the physical and psychological anguish that these women and children suffer from as a consequence of this.

Despite increasing global attention and concern in India – a country known for its conservative culture that prides itself as having gone global blinds itself from the tragic reality of human trafficking in its own backyard.

“Trafficking in persons is dynamic, adaptable, and opportunistic like many other forms of criminal activity. It takes advantage of conflicts, humanitarian disasters and the vulnerability of people in situations of crisis.” This was further echoed by the Supreme Court of India while deciding on public interest litigation filed by the NGO – Bachpan Bachao Andolan child trafficking, “It’s happening because of poverty in the country. This is also because of the very high and large scale unemployment. Our cultural ethos is going down the drain.

India is becoming a hub of such activities.” The immediate impact of human trafficking though restricted to the victim and those revolving around her, the additional impacts of human security as a collective is an international concern; though not obvious are extremely imperative. They include:-

- A compromise of border integrity - as thousands of people are transported annually across national borders under false pretences particularly from Bangladesh & Nepal.
- A steady depreciation of human health - through the spread of HIV/AIDS and other sexually transmitted diseases (STDs) to the victims, their clients, their clients wives and so on...
- Threats to national and international security - since it is alleged that many of the world’s major sex traffickers are in nexus with organised crime groups and smuggling cartels.

Human trafficking is the fastest growing means by which people are enslaved, the fastest growing international crime, and one of the largest sources of income for organised crime.

– The UN Office on Drugs and Crime

1.2 million Children are trafficked worldwide every year.

– Estimate by UNICEF

Only 10% of human trafficking in India is international, while almost 90% is interstate. Nearly 40,000 children are abducted every year of which 11,000 remain untraced according to a report by the National Human Rights Commission of India.

NGO's estimate that 12,000-50,000 women and children are trafficked annually for the purpose of commercial sexual exploitation. There is an estimated 300,000 child beggars in India

Every year, 44,000 children fall into the clutches of criminal gangs.



According to the Global Slavery Index 2014, India and Pakistan alone account for over **45%** of total global enslaved population and have highest prevalence of modern slavery in Asia. It estimates that over 23.5 million people in Asia are living in modern slavery. This is equivalent to almost two-thirds of the global total number of people enslaved. Of these, over **14.2 million are in India** and over 2.05 million are in Pakistan, which demonstrate the highest prevalence of modern slavery in Asia (1.141% and 1.13% of their populations respectively).

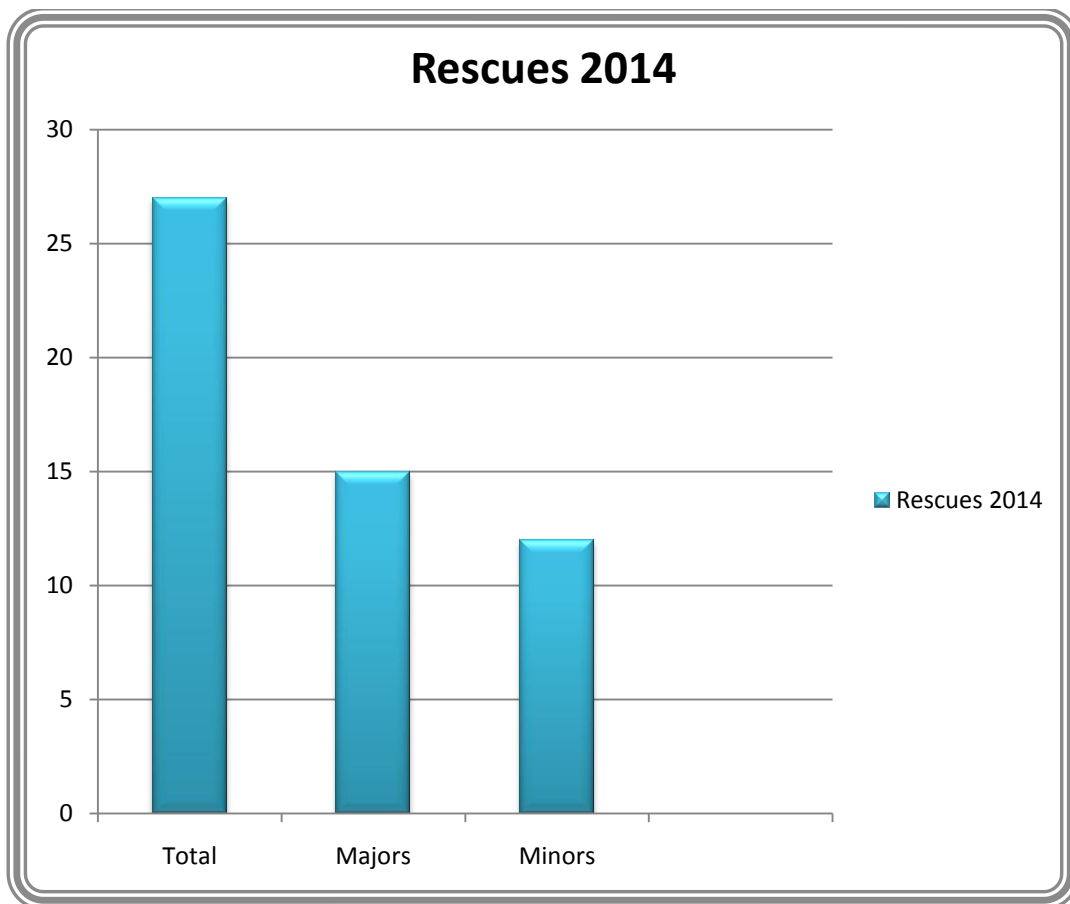
Who we are

Transforming Lives Foundation (hereinafter referred to as “TLF”) came into existence with the intention of assisting the criminal justice system in India and in turn to strengthen the law enforcement response. It is TLF’s intention to work towards creating a strong network between the law enforcement agencies and its civil society partners thus resulting in effective rescues, successful convictions and most importantly successful rehabilitation of victims into mainstream society. Having a world where no human trafficking is possible is a far distance but focusing on the mental, physical and emotional impact of this crime on the human security of the countless individual victims is obvious and therefore as responsible members of society we take it upon ourselves to use every possible resource to assist in the rescue of these victims. At the moment, we focus our operations in Mumbai, Thane and Nagpur districts in Maharashtra and Vapi district in Gujarat – INDIA.

Our Work

TLF works on a three tier model – rescue, prosecute and rehabilitate. We have a small team of socially and emotionally conscientious social workers, lawyers, anthropologists and journalists who are experienced and dedicated in conducting raids and rescue operations.

In the year 2014, we were able to conduct 09 rescue operations in which 12 minors and 15 major victims of human trafficking were rescued.



The Survivors – A part of our family

They were once victims of human trafficking; today they are survivors of human trafficking and are a part of the TLF family. We are a small family but we hope to be able to provide for them emotionally and psychologically for time to come. We take this opportunity to share the stories of a few. The names of the survivors have been changed to protect their identity and respect their right to privacy and anonymity.

“3 Minors Rescued”

On 21st May 2013 our team received a call from the Asst Police Inspector (API) of Anti Trafficking Unit, Thane Rural. He had received information from International Justice Mission (IJM) of minor girls being forced into prostitution around a Beach area under his jurisdiction. The API asked our assistance to conduct this rescue operation. That same afternoon our team went to the office of Deputy Superintendent of Police (DYSP) for a raid meeting. There it was decided that our team members would be the decoy customer as well as the independent witnesses. In the evening the decoy customer and the male witness went to the location and asked for girls. The manager of the location informed them that he received a call from the local police about a raid in the area so there were no girls that day. That day the raid was called off.

The next day we suggested that instead of cars we would use motorbikes to avoid tip-off. This plan worked. The decoy customer & male witness went to the location along with a police officer and an IJM member and asked to be shown some girls. The Manager did not hesitate and showed 5 girls of which 3 were minors.

The raiding team waited at a distance for the signal. The decoy customer selected one of the minor girls while the male witness observed the transaction. The decoy customer went into a room with the girl. As soon as he was in the room, he alerted the Police.

The Police promptly raided the resort and cordoned off the location to avoid anyone from escaping or entering.

5 young girls were rescued of which 3 were minors. 2 of the victims were forced into prostitution.



The police arrested 5 pimps and the manager as well. One of the accused, Deva, was a local criminal.

“The Party”

We received information that a lady named Hema was supplying minor girls in Mira road area. Our team members made contact with Hema who informed them that the girls were only interested in “young customers” not older men. Then our team members told Hema that they had some young customers.

The next day two of our “young” team members met with Hema and she showed them photos of the girls as the girls were out. Our team members informed Hema that they were having a party & all their friends would be at this party. Hema agreed to provide girls for the party. She asked them to organize the party and inform her.

Our team met with the police officials of the Anti Human Trafficking Unit of Thane to plan a raid and rescue operation. The police agreed to conduct the rescue.

As per plan, the decoy customer, the male witness & some “young” volunteers went to pick up the madam Hema & the girls. She had three young girls with her at the time. From there they went to the location of the “party”. The police arrived shortly at the location and busted the party.

At the time of questioning Hema informed the police that one more girl was waiting for them at a different location not very away. A lady officer along with our staff member went to the location and one more girl was rescued. 2 perpetrators were arrested; one of them was the owner of the location & second was the madam.



All these victims have been rehabilitated back to their families

“Rakhi & Soni”

On 18 March 2014 our team members received information from their sources that a lady named Lalita supplied minor girls for the purpose of sex. Our team made contact with her on telephone. After much persistence, on 22nd March Lalita showed our team one minor virgin girl & informed them that the rate of the girl would be 1 lakh rupees.

The same evening we shared this information with the Asst Police Inspector of the Social Service Branch, Thane Rural. Due to election in the area, he said they would be able to conduct the raid on Wednesday (26th March).

On Wednesday our team went to the Social Service Branch. A raid plan was made. Our team members would be part of the raiding team with the police. The decoy customer and the independent witnesses would also be members of our team. Along with the Social Services officers and officers from a local police station, a plan was made. The police marked the currency that would be handed over to the pimp at the time of the transaction.

As per the raid plan, the decoy customer and the male witness waited near the rendezvous location for the pimp to arrive with the girls. After sometime, 3 female pimps came along with a minor girl. Unfortunately the lodge where they would engage the girl denied entry to the team; hence the money transaction was done by the roadside. As soon as the money had exchanged hands, the Police apprehended the 3 female pimps & separated the minor victim from them.



Rakhi - A minor
sold into the trade
by her own
mother.

After taking the accused to the Police station it was made known that one of the pimps was the mother of the minor victim and she was selling her own daughter. There was another 7 year old daughter in her house who was left alone. Their father was deceased. One of our team members & a police team member went to the house and brought her also to the police station. It was decided in the best interest of the child that she too would be kept in a shelter home as she too was vulnerable to being trafficked and sold into prostitution.

Soni- 7 Year old,
now safe in a
shelter home



The Road Ahead

TLF is growing but we have carefully planned our growth and it is our commitment to see a world where our freedom enshrined in the constitution of India is truly realised, gives us the strength to carry on, both on good days and the bad days.

Our aim shall always be to rescue as many victims as quickly as possible. We are currently in the process of building new partnerships with various government agencies, local NGO's and donor agencies.

We work along with the law enforcement agencies to create training modules and engage in capacity building exercises for various officers in jurisdictions where trafficking is rampant. Through this working relationship and further sensitisation among police officials, our victim's first interaction with the state is not full of hiccups. Strengthening the system well will only result in an increased faith in our victims' path to rehabilitation.

With a rescue, rehabilitate, prosecute and repatriate approach TLF has been gathering a reputation with local rural law enforcement and government home machinery. The initial phase of 3 years of building a team has successfully been completed and the next stage for further tapping of rural pockets is being rolled out. With several key rural pockets remaining ignored due to large concentration of agencies in urban areas the need for small travelling teams has arisen. Using existing contacts to help mobilize rural resources the next three years will see TLF partner with more rural law enforcement agencies and government homes in tier two cities (b- towns). Nagpur, Sangli and other nodal transit cities have existing partner agencies and it is these alliances that OR seeks to capitalize by way of collective pooling of resources.

The ultimate objective is to help build a long term model that can be sustained by state funds. TLF seeks to set out mobile Multi - Disciplinary Units that can lead by example in smaller untapped pockets that are currently seeing a spike in human trafficking. Two Mobile Multi Disciplinary Units based out of Mumbai but travelling to various rural parts of Maharashtra, Karnataka and Gujarat will be running the following programs:

- Transit Surveillance Program: focusing on runaways and potential victims of trafficking being trafficked through transit and entry points in major cities that are en route or at final destination points.
- Community Intervention Program: focusing on economically and socially disadvantaged individuals within urban and rural communities who are vulnerable to trafficking. Using local intelligence and intelligence provided by State homes and law enforcement officials.
- Destination Intervention Program: focusing on children and women who have already been sold into various forms of trafficking in Rural Thane and other pockets in and around Mumbai.

TLF seeks to engage with the victims of trafficking and survivors of trafficking; 45 victims shall receive intervention by way of rescue. 70% of these will receive short term to long term after care. Of the 15 operations envisaged all 15 will lead to filing of preliminary charges and of these 5 cases are likely to lead to convictions.

A parallel rural outreach programme is also being planned. We are in progress of a mapping exercise to understand the geographical area and routes traffickers take while bringing women and children to Mumbai. Based on our research we shall create and

subsequently implement intervention strategies that are self sufficient and shall result in blocking these routes.

We shall in the coming year increase our media presence. TLF shall soon find a place on the World Wide Web and various social networking websites with the aim to continue discussion and find better and newer solutions to eradicate the perpetrators of this crime.

We aim to collaborate with various companies and become part of their corporate social responsibility initiatives and they in turn can become an integral part of our aftercare strategy – the hope being that our young girls can become a part of their work force and their dreams of being financially independent become a reality.

We are also in talks with the government of Maharashtra on how we can expand vocational training and bring in greater desire for education among girls who are currently in various special rehabilitation homes across the state.

Our Team

Manohar Waghela, Chief Operation Officer

Manohar has been a part of the prevention of human trafficking movement since 2005. Having worked extensively in this area for organisations like International Justice Mission, Oasis India and Justice & Care. Manohar started off as an investigator and then moved up the ladder to an intelligence officer and now manages and coordinates all rescue operations for Transforming Lives Foundation. Manohar has also been closely associated with Child Line in Lucknow and Kolkata.

He has so far investigated in over 350 cases of human trafficking, participated in 96 rescue operations having rescued 323 women and children.

Ranjeet Chouguley, Chairman

Ranjeet has a master's degree in Law with specialization in international criminal law and a master's in Economics with a focus on emerging markets. Ranjeet is a consultant for several leading infrastructure development firms that work in the MENA region.

Ranjeet was a founder director of Justice and Care and SACMEP. He has also served as a member of the immoral trafficking prevention Act advisory body incorporated under the ITPA. Ranjeet has 10 years of experience in the field of Anti-Trafficking and he has pioneered the work of anti – trafficking prosecution in Maharashtra. Ranjeet has been a part of policy development and review for the state Govts. Child Welfare Department for several years now. His domain of experience includes criminal legislation in local jurisdictional matters as well as cross jurisdictional cases, drafting and conveyance and liaising with law enforcement and judiciary. Ranjeet has authored several books on Anti trafficking and is considered an authority on the subject. Ranjeet currently works with a large corporate house where he leads the legal division.

Awantika Wankhede, Director – Finance

Awantika is a practising lawyer and graduated from Govt. Law College Nagpur in 2005.

Awantika, while still studying, started training under Assistant Government Pleader

Advocate Mrs. A. R. Taiwade at the High Court of Bombay where she assisted her on

several criminal and civil matters. Awantika, has worked with various law firms and corporate ranging from Divya Shah Associates (DSA) Malvi Ranchoddas Co the Runwal Group and worked with leading real estate corporate houses such as Godrej Properties Ltd. and Tata Housing. At Transforming Lives Foundation, Awantika is responsible for the finance portfolio and she is in charge of liaising with internal auditors.

Social Worker

Swati Sawant has done a Para Professional course from Nirmala Niketan Extension Centre. She has worked with Child Line, Mumbai as a social worker for the last three years has been a part of the TLF team for the past eight months.

Case Workers

Vrutika Patel, Divya Waghela, Pooja Dubey & Dimple Gor –

The caseworkers are mostly students who have a desire to work in this field after they complete their education. They have a heart to serve these girls.

Investigation

Shankar, Anil, Ketan, Nikesh & Akshay-

Shankar is a part of the fight against human trafficking since 2005. He began as an operative with International Justice Mission and has been part several successful undercover investigations due to which several minor girls have been rescued. He has also worked with International Human Rights, Mumbai.

Anil has worked with Child Line, Mumbai and has experience in rescuing minors from forced labour.

Ketan has worked with a private detective and has experience in investigating matters.

Nikesh is young and vibrant and is passionate to see girls and women being rescued from clutches of pimps and traffickers.

Akshay heard about the work we do and showed great interest and desire to be a part of this movement.

Mellita Fernandes – Administration

Mellita has provided administrative assistance for the past two years.

Shikha Phillips – Communications & Documentation

Shikha has worked in the field of Social Development for the last 17 years. She has been part of the fight against Human Trafficking for the past 7 years having worked with International Justice Mission in Mumbai & Kolkata and Justice & Care in Kolkata & Mumbai. She has spearheaded the setting up of a residential facility for survivors of human trafficking for Youcanfree.Us, India as a Project Co-ordinator.

James Kedari & Jigna Seth Puri - Volunteers