



## Human Trafficking Project: North India

### Tackling emerging vulnerabilities and rehabilitating women and children

#### The Problem

The Eastern Himalayan Region in northern India is one of the most vulnerable for trafficking girls and boys in and out of India. The region, which surrounds the regions of Darjeeling and Assam, is an entry and transit point for bordering countries Nepal, Bangladesh and Bhutan. In 2005, the Church of North India held a two day conference that brought together NGOs, the UN, government agencies and interfaith organisations to create a greater understanding of the issue and share experiences. The group found that younger people and adolescents are at greatest risk, often leaving with the promise of work and money, and being forced into prostitution. It is estimated that 270 000 children work forcibly in prostitution today throughout India.

#### The Project

In consultation with the Church of North India, an action plan has been developed to prioritise prevention of human trafficking. Newly emerging challenges will be met as soon as they arise by strengthening collaboration with governments, NGOs and faith based organisations. The formation of vigilant cells within communities will also be formed to prevent children falling into the trafficking trap.

A short stay home for up to 30 survivors will also be established at Kalimpong, in the district of Assam. Accommodation, legal

support, travel assistance and counseling will be provided to trafficking survivors.

The prevention program will:

1. Increase the number of boys and girls in vocational education to provide them with stable income in their home towns.
2. Ensure women and girls are self-reliant and prepared for life.

The rehabilitation program will:

1. Establish a short-stay rehabilitation centre for up to 30 people rescued from trafficking.
2. Increase the number of boys, women and girls receiving counseling and legal advice.
3. House a centre to teach boys and girls vocational skills for life.



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