



UnitingWorld
connecting communities for life

CLOSE THE DOOR ON

SEX TRAFFICKING AND CHILD LABOUR

North-East India



UnitingWorld is an agency of the National Assembly
of the Uniting Church in Australia.

Close the door on trafficking though

AWARENESS – PREVENTION – RESCUE – COUNSELLING



North-East India: A TRAFFICKING GATEWAY

Trafficking of women and children is one of the major human rights issues in India. The Indo-Nepal, Indo-Bhutan and Indo-Bangladesh border regions are especially vulnerable to cross-border trafficking, while internal trafficking is rampant in the area.

THE REGION AT A GLANCE:

Country	Population	14 years and under	Poverty rate estimates (earning less than \$1.25 per day)
Bangladesh	158 million	32.0%	40.0%
Bhutan	699,000	31.3%	23.2%
India	1.17 billion	31.0%	28.6%
Nepal	28.9 million	37.2%	30.9%

Source: www.worldbank.org

Child Labour

NOHA – Sold for 50 cents per day



At just 10 years of age Noha* was forced to drop out of school because her family were unable to pay her fees. She had to work and contribute money to the household.



A wealthy family from a city in North Bengal sent a scout to look for a domestic cleaner, and at the promise of good pay and treatment, together with shelter and sufficient food, Noha accepted the job, filled with a sense of responsibility to earn good money for her family.



With a predominantly young population, extreme poverty, and the free movement of local people across the border on a daily basis to purchase or sell goods and to visit family, the area is ripe for human trafficking. Unscrupulous scouts work the region to fulfil local demand for domestic and factory workers and to secure young men and women for brothels in major Indian cities and the Middle East.

Without education or alternative forms of livelihood, agriculture or livestock activity, young men and women in the region face the prospect of being day labourers. Day labourers work long days on tea plantations, in construction or road works, commonly earning just \$1 per day.

With offers of a better life, young women and boys are vulnerable to the promises made by traffickers. Large families struggling to feed their children are often swayed by the offers made by the traffickers.

From left to right: Day labourers working on the roads in Assam and tea plantations near the Indo-Nepal border.



The CNI in Action

Meet **REV. WANGYAL**

Rev. Wangyal is a CNI minister in a remote area near the Indo-Bhutan border. In 2008 a young Nepalese girl called Jyota* from his community was approached by a scout to work as a domestic maid in Assam. The job was presented as well paid and so she left his town in pursuit of a better future and income. Tragically Jyota's real destination was a brothel in Delhi.

After more than a year of being subjected to forced prostitution, Jyota escaped and returned to her village. The family rejected her and the church and community were indifferent to her plight but Rev. Wangyal and his wife argued that embracing Jyota was core to the Christian faith. Trained by the CNI in counselling they took Jyota into their home and cared for her. Having attended a CNI workshop they challenged the community to think differently about the issue. Soon Jyota returned home to her family and she has now married a local man.

With poverty such a key risk factor in trafficking, Rev. Wangyal helped establish several CNI livestock and agricultural livelihood initiatives. He looks forward to the establishing of a vocational centre so Jyota and others can be trained in other income possibilities.

*Jyota's name has been changed to protect her identity

Tragically Noha became a victim of human trafficking. For the next two years she was rarely able to make contact with her parents and she toiled seven days a week, from the crack of dawn until late at night. Her body gradually grew weaker as she was made to wash heavy clothes and linen by hand. This was a thankless and backbreaking task, for which she earned less than 50 cents a day.

The day Noha refused a task due to exhaustion, she was beaten beyond recognition and after hospitalisation was sent home with nothing more than the clothes on her back.

The CNI Anti-Trafficking program provided counselling and support for Noha and her family. As the program develops the program will also enable vulnerable children like Noha and her family to develop income streams through learning vocational skills and simple but effective livelihood initiatives.

*Noha's name has been changed to protect her identity
Image: After escaping from being trafficked, Noha is now safe back at home with her family and receiving counselling and support through the anti-trafficking program.

THANK YOU for your support!

UnitingWorld has
completed a DVD on
Church Partnerships.



Want your own
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As you complete your donation details
within simply tick the relevant box.

The Church of North India

The CNI was formed by six major churches in India in 1970 and has an estimated 1.5 million members, covering two thirds of India.

UnitingWorld works closely with the CNI as they pursue programs related to their core priorities. The CNI has a strategic emphasis on solidarity with marginalised people, breaking down barriers of caste, class, gender and economic inequality, and exploitation of the environment.

Support this program and assist the victims and survivors of trafficking by:

- training survivors in skills that will allow them to find an alternative livelihood;
- providing counselling and legal advice for the survivors of trafficking; and
- increasing community awareness in India to help prevent trafficking.



"We are aware we are not alone in this struggle. We know that our friends overseas and in this country stand with us. Particularly I appeal to the members of the Uniting Church in Australia to support the project of UnitingWorld in addressing this anti-trafficking program."

Rev. Dr Enos Das Pradhan
General Secretary, The Church of North India

The CNI Anti-Trafficking Program



Images: Nepalese women from the Indo-Nepal and Indo-Bhutan border area



- Rescuing trafficked victims;
- Rehabilitation of the survivors of trafficking and ensuring their re-integration into the community;
- Raising awareness of local communities to prevent trafficking;
- A home in Kalimpong for rescued children and women to help develop their self-esteem and development;
- Counselling centres in Kalimpong, Siliguri, and Naxalbari; and
- Building confidence among survivors with regards to alternative economic opportunities that are available to them and church-based livelihood initiatives through livestock and agriculture.
- The opening of a vocational multipurpose skill development training centre where these already trafficked girls or girls who are vulnerable can learn new skills and develop new income streams.

Discover more about this program,
including a picture gallery and video clips
at www.unitingworld.org.au

FACTS:

- 2.8 million sex workers in India
- 35% enter the sex trade before the age of 18
- 40% of prostitutes in a Mumbai brothel precinct originated in Nepal

Source: <http://www.cwmission.org/features/all-work-and-no-play>

Cover image: Restless mind, www.flickr.com/photos/restless_mind



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Yes, I'd like to donate to Close the Door on Child Trafficking:

I would like to give:

- \$40 will enable a child to receive vital care in a rehabilitation centre for one month;
- \$75 will allow a survivor of trafficking to receive three months of counselling;
- \$150 will cover the weekly operating costs for an emergency call centre for trafficked children, The centre will provide legal services to the survivors of trafficking;
- \$275 will enable a child like Noha to attend three months of vocational training and so develop an income stream to help protect them from becoming a victim of trafficking.
- \$500 will support livelihood initiatives in livestock, agriculture and small business through CNI church networks among vulnerable communities
- Other \$ _____

All donations are gratefully received!

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Gifts to this appeal are not tax deductible.

Should the funds raised exceed the amount required to meet the needs of this project, UnitingWorld will use the excess funds to support the Church of North India in other ways.

Please send me information about leaving a Bequest to UnitingWorld.

Please send me a copy of the DVD on Church Partnerships referred to in this appeal.

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or donate via online www.unitingworld.org.au**