

# Encouragement from Sahaara



## Dear Supporting Churches

Greetings from Sahaara!

It is our pleasure to be associated with you as we work among the commercial sex workers and their children in the city of Mumbai. We appreciate your participation with us in our work through your prayer support. God is at work and we delight to work alongside him among the marginalised in our city.

In this letter, we seek to share with you some of the highlights, challenges and stories of the last three months and also let you know our prayer requests so that you can join us as we seek God to bring hope, freedom and transformation to the lives of the commercial sex workers.

### Highlights of the last 3 months

We have been greatly encouraged to see God blessing our work over the last 3 months. Here are some of the highlights;



- Carina (volunteer nurse) has been teaching the women and children in red light area on health, hygiene, nutrition, etc.
- United Way, an NGO, conducted an awareness program along with Sahaara on Hepatitis B & C in Turbhe, Bhandup, Bhiwandi and Panvel red light areas.
- A trafficked woman from the Ghatkopar red light area has left the trade and is now gainfully employed.
- 7 women received healing and deliverance at the Bhiwandi cell meetings.
- Crossway Church, who have strong links with Sahaara, conducted a Baking and Jewelry making training from 8th-12th July and donated a machine for making greetings cards.
- 25 CSWs attended a special prayer meeting at the Bhandup red light area and were blessed.
- A trafficked woman from Bhandup red light area was healed from a tumor in her uterus.

### Some Challenges

Conducting regular follow-ups with the CSW's has been a challenge. A lot of effort goes into building a strong relationship with the women through counseling. But when a woman shifts to another area for some reason or another, the link between our staff and the woman is broken and she tends to continue her trade. It's also a challenge for us when CSW's live together with a man. When they are encouraged to leave the trade and the area, they often do not want to leave their partner and vice-versa making it difficult for them to move on.

We also struggle with CSW's who have many addictions (substance abuse as well as relational) and keep changing their minds about exiting the trade as they look to fuel their addiction. Further to these problems we often come up against pimps who do not allow us to make contact with the CSW's.

## Prayer Points



- Medical programme in Turbhe, Ghatkopar and Bhandup to go well.
- Vijaya\*, a trafficked woman, from the Turbhe red light area to be willing to leave the man she is living with and get back the deposit from the pimp so that she can exit the trade.
- Mothers of children staying in Anandalay (a home for daughters of commercial sex workers) to exit the trade.
- NGO's working in Turbhe red light area to work in harmony and co-operation and have a plan for women to exit the trade.
- Staff to have discernment while counselling the women in the red light areas.
- Abhilsha\*, a trafficked woman, from Bhandup, to be healed of partial blindness and to be willing to exit the trade.

## Hopes for the next 3 months

- We hope to refer three women who want to exit the trade to other rehabilitation homes.

We thank God for you and the invaluable support you extend to us and our work through your prayers. Your prayers are an incredible encouragement, assuring us that we have a spiritual army marching before us as we seek to share the Light of Life in some of the darkest areas of our city.

With love in Christ,

Max Fernand CEO Sahaara

*\*Names changed to protect identity*