


# SHARE

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## FOCUS ~ MINISTRY

### Build a World Free of Human Trafficking

Author: Jojo Poon

Slavery is often thought of as an archived piece in the history of humanity existed only in the poorest corners of the earth full of conflicts and incivilities. The sad fact is that the total number of slaves is at a historic high today, spanning across the globe.

"If there is one life being threatened to be sold, we shall be there fighting against it," said one of the speakers in an anti-human trafficking conference—Let alone the fact that 36 million people, five times the population of Hong Kong and two-thirds of them from Asia<sup>1</sup>, are under various forms of slave-like control. Thankfully, God did not ignore the cries of millions of all ages who were forced under contracts of labor, sex, and military. He called forth a group of His faithful servants, of which a lot of them in Asia are current partners of CEDAR. They are tasked to walk with the wounded and protect those who are vulnerable to being slaved.

According to the Trafficking Victims Protection Act, Human Trafficking is:

- Sex trafficking: the recruitment, harboring, transportation, provision, or obtaining of a person for the purpose of a commercial sex act, in which the commercial sex act is induced by force, fraud, or coercion, or in which the person induced to perform such act has not attained 18 years of age; and

- Labor Trafficking: the recruitment, harboring, transportation, provision, or obtaining of a person for labor or services, through the use of force, fraud, or coercion for the purpose of subjection to involuntary servitude, peonage, debt bondage, or slavery.

### Intervention at the Human Trafficking Roots in Asia

India has long been the source, proxy, and destination of forced labor and sex trafficking. Ninety percent of the trafficking was done locally, the victims being those in the lowest caste—the Dalits (literally "The oppressed").

Forced labor and child labor are common in the Bihar State in Northeastern India. Children and women are particularly vulnerable to trafficking due to poverty, the lack of land ownership, and the lack of education and employment opportunities. Local statistics show that there are 2.18 million uneducated children in 2012 alone, who often ended up being labored or even sold. A lot of girls were being sold to brothels in Mumbai, Delhi and Calcutta, and boys were often trafficked to other cities in India as workers. Some as young as 9 were forced to work in embroidering factories in Nepal.

Nepal was not much better than India. The government record of human trafficking in Nepal skyrocketed after the earthquake in April 25 last year. Many children from disaster-struck families were forced to work to sustain their lives, making them easy prey for traffickers. Nepal is another hot spot of human trafficking in Asia with as much as 15,000 girls being sold to Indian brothels yearly. A current estimation of 200 thousand girls in India are thought to be victims of trafficking activities coming from Nepal. Another 30 thousand in Nepal were forced to work in the sex industry<sup>2</sup>.

Grace (obscured) was born in a poor family where her father was in chronic conditions. She had to drop out from school and start working at the age of 14. She met a man when she was 17 who told her there was employment opportunity. She followed him and left her town. Eventually she was sold to an Indian circus where she had to practice risky and difficult acts daily without pay and proper food. She lived in fear for 2 years before she was saved.

### Promoting Connection and Support within Communities

Partners of CEDAR in India and Nepal started to promote and build church and community support networks against child trafficking since 2011, watching for and preventing the abduction and sales of children while rescuing and supporting those who were victimized. They also provided training and life essential supports for poor families in the hope of stopping the trafficking at its roots.





Photo: David Longstreath/IRIN

Our partner in India, the Evangelical Fellowship of India Children At Risk (EFICAR), had built church support networks for high-risk children in the Jharkhand State, the Orissa State, and the West Bengal, saving children like Sara (obscured) from the mouth of the lions.

Sara, 19, was from an underprivileged community in the Jharkhand State. She aimed to be a high school teacher after her graduation but was sold to a brothel in Delhi by ill-intentioned friends, and she thought her life was over. Thanks to the strong support network built in the Jharkhand State by our partner, Sara was found in a brothel 1,000 km from her home. She is now living in a safe place and has found her hope again.

Our chivalric partners in Nepal are the Share and Care Nepal and the Viva Network. They also built church and community support networks helping the minorities in the fight against traffickers. Their workers told us, "Poverty and child inequality put Nepal children in a disadvantage where they are prone to being exploited, abused, sold as debt-paying labor, and be involved in underage marriage, sex work, or become temple prostitutes."

Share and Care Nepal has been providing training to 70 women self-help groups during the past 3 years in villages in the Makawanpur mountains next to India, raising their awareness and preventing abilities against human trafficking activities. On the other hand, Viva Network has mobilized over 350 churches in different parts of Nepal. "We believe that the joint words and actions of the 350 churches could change this country," said Brian Wilkinson, the project executive of Viva Network.

Among the women being helped by the Viva Network, 12 were attending a women rights and human trafficking prevention group in a small church in the mountains of Nepal. They were non-believers, but that did not become their obstacle. They farmed and fed animals together to improve their lives. When a staff asked them, "If you had a hard time feeding the family, and a guy came by and told you he could refer your children to work in a restaurant in the city, what would be your choice?" The question was answered by unanimous and loud "No"s, since they knew their children could be exploited and abused. Such awareness is

becoming a strong force in the villages to recognize and prevent children from being sold.

Besides those in India and Nepal, CEDAR is also supporting its partners in fighting International human trafficking in China and Myanmar. Visit the following site for more: <http://bit.ly/cedar-share218e>



1 <http://www.globalslaveryindex.org/>

2 <http://blog.viva.org/index.php/2014/12/09/tackling-roots-trafficking-nepal/>





## STEP INTO THE WORLD



### Combat Human Trafficking From Church, Through Church

Human trafficking is often international, and it has become the second largest global illegal trade business following drugs. Sixty percent of human trafficking activities were international. CEDAR is supporting multiple partners in their education, support network building, living condition improvements, and life rebuilding projects.

#### In India, Nepal, and Bangladesh:

- We support EFIC@R's work in the Bihar State of India in mobilizing 60 local churches in combating child trafficking;
- We support The Salvation Army Bangladesh to counsel and provide vocational training to former sex workers in Dhaka;
- We support the work of Share and Care in the mountains of Makawanpur in Nepal that improves the self-sufficiency of local women and girls, while preventing human trafficking activities through education;
- We support the Viva Network's efforts in Morang, Rupandehi, and Kanchanpur along the borders of India and Nepal, also that in Nuwakot and Lalitpur near the capital. They work to connect churches and communities to fight against child and sex trafficking, and serve the high-risk and wounded children and families.

#### In China, Myanmar, and Thailand:

- We encouraged the churches in Yunnan China to actively care for the young workers from Myanmar, educating them about human trafficking and work safety;
- We support our partners in Myanmar in setting up training centers that provide vocational training and counseling to girls, who were once sold, to rebuild their body and hearts;
- We support the Thai Lahu Foundation in Northern Thailand who hosts workshops in ethnic villages that raise awareness and prevent human trafficking.

The fight against human trafficking and the mending of lives require a huge number of dedicated long term frontline workers. We urge you to donate monthly in supporting CEDAR's partners and building a trafficking-free world.

## JOIN HANDS JOIN HEARTS



### From a Slave to an Aspiring Doctor

Cecil (obscured), a Myanmar youth whose life was surrounded by war, landmines, human trafficking, and slavery before she was 9, was physically scarred for life. Fortunately, they did not strip her of her hope and will in surviving.

When she was still a baby, Cecil's father left home because of the war; her mother was killed by landmines shortly afterwards when picking firewood. Cecil lived with her aunt since she was 3 months old, not knowing her own parents, nor what did they look like.

When Cecil was 4, her aunt sold her to a housekeeper agency in Yangon, and advanced her salary of the next 10 years. For the following 5 years, Cecil was being treated as a slave. She had to do heavy loads of housework daily, and would get beaten harshly for any tiny mistakes she made. Each scar on her body reminds her of the pains she experienced during that lonely and helpless days in her life.

"For he will deliver the needy who cry out, the afflicted who have no one to help." (Psalm 72:12) God responded to Cecil's cry and raised the compassion of her neighbors. When Cecil was 9, the wife next door requested to take Cecil in. By God's grace, her owner miraculously agreed. The helping family were Christians and they arranged Cecil to live in the children's home of Fullmoon, one of the CEDAR's partners, where she was able to live under Christ's love.

Today, God is healing the wounds that spread across Cecil's tiny body by His love through His servants.

Our staff in Myanmar and supporters were able to visit the Fullmoon children compound during the last Chinese new year and had a chance to talk with Cecil. She lived in the compound with other war-affected children for the past 6 years. She started going to school and could communicate with us through simple English. She happily shared her dreams, "I dream to become an optometrist, and save lives with my own."

We were thankful to see Cecil growing with hope in Fullmoon, and pray that God would use her to bless much more lives with His healing and grace.



## TAKING ACTION

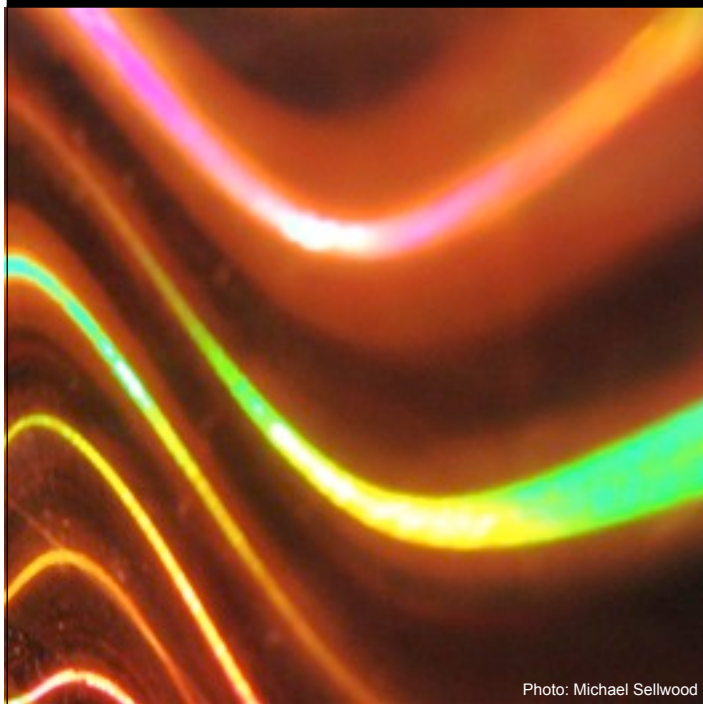


Photo: Michael Sellwood

### A Different Light in the Red Light District—Eden Ministry's Work in Hong Kong

Where would you think is the red light district of Hong Kong? Is it Mong Kok? Yau Ma Tei? Jordan? Or Wan Chai?

CEDAR's office is located in Jordan. The sight of sex workers and procurers, and women foot spa workers waiting for business were constant over the years when we maneuver the inner streets on our way to the minivan stations. The heavy makeups could not mask the ladies' pure looks underneath. One always wonders what forced them to choose the path condemned by the society?

The Eden Ministry, a partner of CEDAR, started to raise attention to the human trafficking problem in Hong Kong 3 years ago. Their staff, Joanne, together with volunteers, would visit the sex workers in old buildings behind the sky-covering red and yellow neon lights, and listen to stories never told before.

Some of them started working voluntarily, while some of them were being tricked; some were from Mainland China and some were born and raised in Hong Kong; some were forced to work because of difficulties, and some were sold out by family members... Each soul the team met was followed by a completely different story. However, what they share in common was the desire to be understood, cared, and be treated as a person.

We might not have the courage to step out of our comfort zone and come in contact with the lives in the red light district that seems so close yet so far. Hopefully this interview could open a window to those struggling lives for you.

Go to <http://bit.ly/cedar-share218-hke> to read the full interview report.



## ANNOUNCEMENT

### 25th Anniversary Thanksgiving and Inauguration Ceremony

By His grace, CEDAR has been serving the disadvantaged for 25 years by now. At this special moment, we recount our blessings & welcome our new Chief Executive. Please join us to praise and give utmost glory to our LORD.

Date> 9 July, 2016 (Saturday)

Time> 3:00 to 4:30pm

Location> Mongkok Baptist Church

6/F, Chung Kiu Commercial Bldg., 47 Shan Tung Street, Mongkok, Kowloon.

RSVP> [bit.ly/cedar25th\\_register](http://bit.ly/cedar25th_register)

Enquiry> 2381 9627

## DONATION & PARTNERSHIP

CEDAR would like to appeal to churches and Christians for regular donations so that CEDAR can continue to support ongoing projects.

**Direct deposit>** HSBC 600-385678-001

**Cheque>** Payable to 'CEDAR FUND'

**Autopay>** <http://cedarfundeng.wordpress.com/donations/>

**Online donation>** <http://bit.ly/cedar-online-donation-eng>

## OPERATING STATEMENT

Jul 15 - Mar 16			
Income	Donations	HK\$	10,939,558
	Grants		822,422
	Appeal for Relief		2,394,101
	Other Income		141,066
		HK\$	14,297,147
Expenditure	Projects	Asia	2,868,663
		China	2,231,347
		Africa	1,479,605
	Relief Projects		4,293,621
	Education Ministry		1,310,320
	Administration		1,111,717
		HK\$	13,295,273
Surplus/(Deficit)		HK\$	1,001,874

Budget for Jul 2015 to June 2016 is 19,464,490

Please remember the needs of CEDAR and partner, through prayers and donation, to ensure all the project to be implemented. 🙏