

Break the chains of ritualised sex slavery

END DALIT TRAFFICKING

Factfile: The Jogini System

Joginis - dedicated to a goddess while they are still young children, sold for sex when they reach puberty and condemned to a lifetime of ritualised prostitution.

When they are dedicated, usually between five and eight years of age, the girls have no idea of the trauma and abuse that faces them. They have no choice in the matter; the decision is made for them by parents. In many respects, the Jogini system is akin to systemic child abuse.

Living in extreme poverty, parents feel that they have little choice. They are not helped by the superstitious belief that becoming a Jogini brings good luck not just to the individual and their family, but also to the whole community.

At puberty, a Jogini will usually be sold to a village elder - a rich man, landowner, priest or similar - to become their concubine until they get fed up with them. The girl becomes the property of the village, to be exploited sexually as well as being subjected to physical abuse. It is the elder who will be paid for the girl's services.

Sometimes Joginis will be trafficked to brothels. Some will go to temples to take part in festivals (Jataras) where they take part in chindulus - traditional dances - where men pin money to the

girl's clothes, but the girl will often be made drunk so that they are unaware of any molestation to which they are subjected.

Due to their activities, Joginis age prematurely and they are prone to sexually transmitted infections including HIV/AIDS. When they are too old or too ill they are often forced to beg in order to survive.

The Jogini system is generational. 90% of Joginis are following in their mother's footsteps. Without a recognised father, their children do not have a father's name. They have no identity and are disadvantaged in society.

Increasingly, Joginis are involved in 'double marriages', where they will be nominally married to an elderly man to cover up their 'marriage' to the goddess. The Jogini system was abolished by state law in 1988, and yet it still continues today. Official figures put the numbers at 17,000 in the southern Indian state of Andhra Pradesh, although NGOs believe there to be as many as 100,000.

Almost all Joginis are Dalits - untouchables. They fall below India's caste system and are treated by many as subhuman or even lower than animals. Dalits are subject to discrimination and humiliation because of their position in society. They are often deprived of basic human rights.

Robbed of their freedom and their dignity, subjected to exploitation, abuse and extreme poverty, many Joginis are looking for a way out. This is why Dalit Freedom Network is working to bring them freedom, hope and justice.

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Briefing: Jogini Prevention Project

India's Jogini system is embedded in the local community; through a targeted prevention and awareness programme, linked to our community transformation initiatives, we aim to stop this abhorrent practice district by district.

Dalit Freedom Network (DFN) is planning a pilot programme for this ground-breaking initiative in the southern Indian state of Andhra Pradesh. The one-year project will focus on one district where it is alleged that every other day another young girl is dedicated as a Jogini.

The scheme will focus not just on existing Joginis and their daughters, but on every member of the community, including those who are particularly vulnerable.

Working in 100 villages across the district, DFN will deliver awareness programmes in the community. The aim is to develop and implement a model which can then be replicated in other districts throughout the state.

The project will identify and support community leaders who will be key to delivering the awareness programme, which will highlight the illegality of

dedications and explain the various government health and education programmes that are available. In addition, DFN will aim to prevent the dedication of young girls as Joginis through education and information, as well as taking legal action where necessary.

Building relationships with the local communities, and gaining the trust of the women and of community leaders, will enable DFN to achieve more than previous attempts to address the issue. At the same time, DFN hopes that through this activity, the authorities will realise the extent of the problem.

Telling people to stop the practice is not enough. This is why community transformation projects are key to the approach. The opportunity for girls to be given a quality education in one of DFN's schools will mean that they gain skills and knowledge to provide them with much better employment prospects. This helps them to break out of the cycle of poverty and exploitation. In addition, as we refine and develop the programme during the pilot year, we will also be assessing the viability for introducing our economic development initiatives into these communities in the future.

You can help us to raise the £50,000 needed to fund the pilot project, and be part of this exciting initiative in the early developmental stages. You will also be helping make us make a real difference in hundreds of girls' lives as we bring them freedom, hope and justice.

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Jogini Project - Fundraising

The Jogini Prevention and Awareness Programme is a brilliant opportunity to make a real difference for hundreds of Dalit girls. You can help us to raise funds to make it a reality.

We will be raising funding through a variety of methods...

- Donations from individuals - you can make a donation and encourage others to do so - online or by post (use the form in this pack).
- Individuals taking part in a sponsored activity - you can use our sponsorship form (download from website) or set up a fundraising page on Virgin Money Giving (or Just Giving or MyDonate) nominating Dalit Freedom Network as your charity.
- Organising fundraising activities - check out the ideas on the right.
- Approaching individuals, organisations and companies who will donate or run a fundraising activity.
- Applications by DFN for grants from trusts and other bodies - if you know of locally-based trusts who would be willing to consider a request please let us know.

Fundraising Ideas

Here are a few ideas to get you started - if you come up with any more then please let us know.

- Meals - in a restaurant or hired premises or a home, including a donation in the charge.
- Concert, talent show, comedy evening, fashion show, quiz night, etc - including donation in ticket price and/or taking a collection.
- Sporting tournament, such as golf, football, tennis, swimming etc - where entry fee includes a donation.
- Auction or promise auction
- Treasure hunt or scavenger hunt
- Bring and buy sale, car boot sale, etc
- Bag packing in a supermarket
- Sale of your handicrafts or artistic products
- Organising a sponsored event, such as sponsored walk, run, swim, cycle ride, silence, bungee jump
- Using Freedom Vouchers as birthday and Christmas presents [coming soon]
- Visual aids such as a paper chain where a link is destroyed for every 50p or £1 donated

You can get your friends to make a £10 donation over their mobile phones - text **JOGN33 £10** to **70070**.

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You can use this form to donate to our Jogini Prevention and Awareness Programme with a single payment or set up a regular payment. If you are a tax-payer you can increase the amount we receive through gift aid.

Please send completed form to: Mike Clark, DFN UK, PO Box 24, Oswestry, SY10 7WD

Dalit Freedom Network UK is a division of Freedom Network International Charity Reg. No. 1122937 Company Reg. No. 6256996

Title	<input type="text"/>	Forename	<input type="text"/>
Surname	<input type="text"/>		
Address	<input type="text"/>		
Postcode	<input type="text"/>	Email	<input type="text"/>
Telephone	<input type="text"/>		

Donations for one-off gifts. If you wish to gift aid this, please complete the Gift Aid Declaration below.

£100 £250 £500 £1,000 Other: £

Cheques should be made payable to 'DFN UK' and sent to Mike Clark at the above address.

Standing Order Form to make regular payments. If you wish to gift aid please complete Gift Aid Declaration

To: Branch

Name of your bank

Name of branch

Bank Address

Bank Code No - - Account No

Account Name

These details can be obtained from your cheque book

Please pay to the **National Westminster Bank plc Oswestry** Bank Code **60-16-04**
Account Name **Freedom Network International (re: DFN UK)** Account No **74068369**

The sum of £
(in figures) (in words)

Reference to be quoted on advice to recipient

To be completed by DFN UK Office

On / / **20** (date of first payment, at least 4 weeks after signing)

and make similar payments monthly quarterly annually up to and including / / **20**

or until this Order is cancelled in writing, charging such payments to my/our account

Signature Date / / **20**

Gift Aid Declaration to increase the amount we receive at no extra cost to you. You must be a UK tax payer.

I want Freedom Network International (re DFN UK) to treat the above gifts and all donations that I make from the date of this declaration until I notify you otherwise as Gift Aid donations

Signature Date / / **20**

You must pay an amount of Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax at least equal to the tax that the charity reclaims on your donation in the appropriate tax year (currently 25p for each £1 you give)

DFN UK will only use the personal information you supply on this form to process your payment and to send to you any information you have requested and to keep you updated about our campaign and work. Some of the information you have requested may be sent to you by DFN UK's partner agencies however DFN UK will not share your personal data with any third party for any other purpose.

If you do not wish to receive information from time to time about DFN UK, its campaign or work and only wish to be sent the information you have requested, please tick here

If you do not wish to receive information from partner agencies of DFN UK in response to your request for more information, please tick here