



PRAJWALA HAPPENINGS

Knowledge → Reflection → Action

Volume 1

Monthly Newsletter

January 2026

This Month in Impact

- 16 children mainstreamed into regular schools.
- 107 at-risk vulnerable women started their self-employment businesses.
- 12 at-risk vulnerable women secured employment.
- 9 survivors are placed through employment/self employment initiatives.
- 4 transgender persons exited street-based prostitution and secured employment.
- ₹6.6 lakh immediate relief fund accessed by 33 survivors.
- 3 foreign survivors repatriated; 10 Indian survivors reintegrated with families.
- 1 girl secured employment in a reputed IT company.
- ~50,000 community members sensitized through prevention programs.

A QUESTION THAT STAYS

Should Foreign Victims Be Compensated?

If compensation is a recognition of harm, does that harm diminish because the survivor is not Indian?

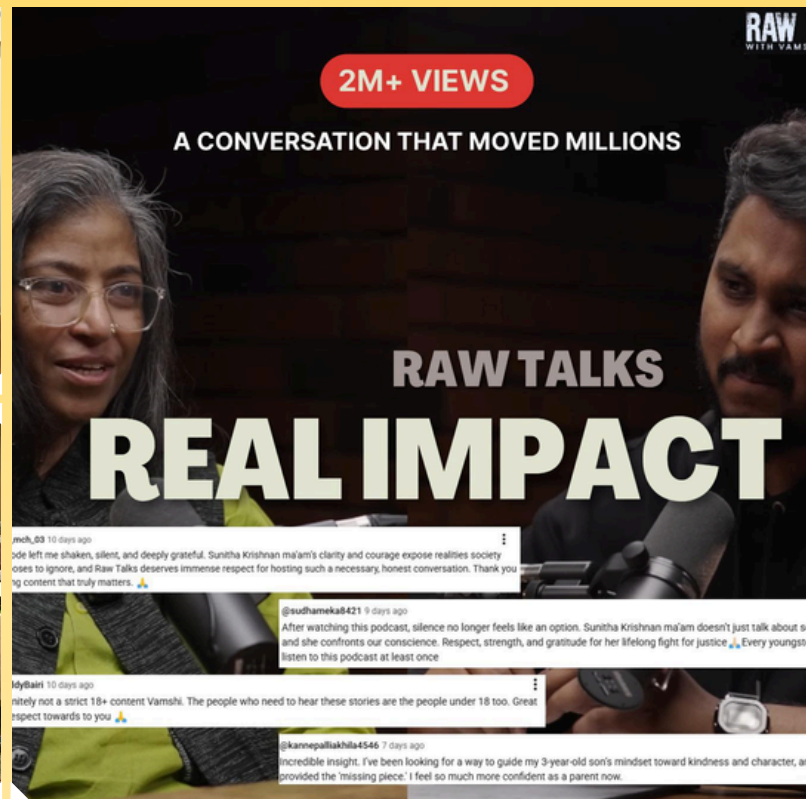
If public funds can be used to compensate citizens, why does nationality quietly become a barrier in practice?

Is repatriation enough to restore dignity after harm?

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“I BELIEVED I WAS TRAVELLING TO INDIA FOR A JOB. I DID NOT KNOW THAT I WAS BEING TRAFFICKED ACROSS INTERNATIONAL BORDERS.....”

[Read her story on Page 4](#)



ETV Bharat / Bharat

Interview | The Faceless Enemy: 'I Am What I Am' Author Sunitha Krishnan On How Technology is Fueling Sex Trafficking In India

Activist Sunitha Krishnan talks about her memoir, the work her organisation Prajwala does and

When Rescue Is Not Enough

A foreign woman is rescued from sex trafficking. She receives shelter and medical care. Within weeks, she's on a flight back. Case closed - or is it?

India's laws recognise survivors of trafficking as victims of crime: not by nationality, but by harm suffered. In principle, compensation frameworks exist to acknowledge that harm, restore dignity, and support recovery. Foreign survivors of sex trafficking are entitled to the same interim relief and compensation as Indian citizens.

Yet, the reality on the ground tells a quieter story.

For foreign survivors, rescue frequently becomes the end point rather than the beginning of justice. The system moves swiftly towards repatriation, often treating return as rehabilitation.



Compensation procedures, dependent on documentation, local follow-up, court processes, and administrative initiative, rarely keep pace. Interim relief, meant to meet immediate needs, is seldom activated. Final compensation, tied to lengthy trials or formal applications, almost never materialises before the survivor leaves the country.

The absence of publicly available data deepens this silence. While nationality-wise rescue figures are recorded, there is no transparent accounting of how many foreign survivors actually receive financial compensation, how much is paid, or which States have made this possible. What is not measured remains invisible and what is invisible is easily neglected.

In this gap, civil society organisations step in, providing basic financial and rehabilitative support where the State does not. But charity cannot replace justice. Compensation is not aid; it is a right. It signals accountability, affirms survivor dignity, and recognises that harm occurred under the jurisdiction of the State, regardless of the victim's passport.



**EXPLOITATION
DOES NOT
RECOGNISE
BORDERS.**



**AS INDIA STRENGTHENS ITS RESPONSE TO TRAFFICKING, IT IS
TIME TO REFLECT:
IS RESCUE BEING MISTAKEN FOR JUSTICE?**

Because true justice does not end at rescue—it includes recognition, repair, and rights that do not stop at borders.

My name is Sonia and this is my Story

Where I come from

My name is Sonia. I am 20 years old. I am from Bangladesh. I lost my father at a young age, and my mother struggled to support our family. Because of financial difficulties, I had to discontinue my studies after Class 8. I wanted to work and help my family.

A Dream of Work

While searching for work, I came in contact with people through Facebook who promised me employment in India and a better life. Believing them, I crossed the border willingly in the hope of earning and supporting my family. I did not realise I was being smuggled.

What awaited me

After reaching India, I was told what "I was expected to do." When I refused, I was beaten, confined to a room, and drugged. I was threatened that I would be handed over to Indian authorities for crossing the border illegally. I was forced into sexual exploitation, facing 20 men in a single day.

When Fear Took Over

During this time, I became pregnant without knowing. It was aborted without my consent. I lived in constant fear, silence, and pain, with no way to escape.

The Turning Point

A rescue operation brought me to Prajwala. I was too scared to say my name. I harmed myself. I could not sleep. I stayed silent for weeks.

Finding My Voice Again

Through safe shelter, counselling, medical care, and rehabilitation support, something changed inside me. I started to pick up myself. I completed my 5-day employability training program. I started to learn embroidery, tailoring, crafts, and jute bag making through lifeskills training. Both these programmes, helped me gain my training completion certificates. I found my voice again.

Journey Ahead

Now, I am looking forward to join as a trainee in Prajwala's Economic Rehabilitation Unit. The journey was never easy, but I am healing now and re-building my life.

If You Would Like to Support

You can support survivors like Sonia (name changed) as we facilitate safe rehabilitation, recovery, and repatriation for women rescued from cross-border trafficking ensuring care and dignity. All your contributions are utilized completely for supporting survivors and are eligible for tax-exemption.

Donate at <https://prajwalaindia.com/donate>