

# FREEDOM TICKET FOR LIFE

Human trafficking is to be tricked or taken against your will; bought, sold and transported into slavery. Many victims are forced to work in **factories, farms, private houses** or the **sex industry**.

The vast majority of victims are women and girls. **Why?** Across the world, girls are not given the same access to education as boys. This means they are **denied** the **choices** and **opportunities** they need to build a life for themselves.

## What can YOU do?

Raise money by running, walking, jogging or racing on wheels to support Oasis Bangladesh. This specialist project in a trafficking hot-spot helps girl's get the education they need. Get involved and give a vulnerable girl an education; her **freedom ticket for life**.



'Girls who receive an education are more empowered, better prepared to protect themselves against violence, abuse, exploitation, trafficking and less vulnerable to disease'

UN Girls Education Initiative

## case study: Mukta (girl in photo not Mukta)

Mukta was only 13 years old when she was forced to drop out of school because her family did not have enough money.

Instead of gaining the education which would have enabled Mukta to achieve her dream of becoming a businesswoman, she was confined to the house where she had to perform all the household duties.

As time passed, Mukta gradually gave up on her dream, as her family continually mistreated her. People said she shouldn't be in education; she should be getting married instead. Mukta grew increasingly unhappy.

It's not surprising then, that so many girls like Mukta run away in search of a new life. Out of education, and desperate for new opportunities, these girls are particularly vulnerable to being trafficked.

Tempted by traffickers' false promises of a "better life", many of them get tricked into joining the **2.3 million** other women forced into prostitution across the border in India.

The Oasis Bangladesh Duaripara Family Centre is crucial in helping girls return to education, thereby reducing their risk of being trafficked. Mukta joined the Duaripara Centre and, through their catch-up education programme, she gained her SSC (high school diploma).

The Centre then helped Mukta find a job as an assistant teacher, meaning she can now fund her own college studies.

By raising money for the education of girls like Mukta, you are helping to prevent poverty and exploitation. Mukta is back on track to achieve her dream.

## the price of Mukta's freedom

**Education means choice. Choice means Freedom.**

The cost for one girl to study at the **Duaripara Family Centre** is just £234 for one year.

One day - £0.60 / One week - £4.20 /  
One month - £19.50

Whether you raise money to keep a girl in the Oasis Bangladesh Duaripara Family Centre for **one day** or **a whole year**, you can make a difference that will change a life!

## community context

\* Bangladesh is one of the most densely populated countries in the world - and it continues to grow. As the capital city, Dhaka attracts many families seeking jobs and opportunities.

\* It's estimated that, by 2020, 9 million residents of the city will be living in slum communities.

\* Families in this situation typically live off £25–£35 a month with limited access to clean water, health care or proper nutrition.

\* Due to most families' low income, many parents find it difficult to keep their children in school. Mukta's experience is one that is shared by millions of Bangladeshi children.

\* 1.5 million children never even enrol for school, and a further 10 million (45% of Bangladeshi children) drop out of education before attaining any basic qualifications. Without a proper education, without qualifications or opportunities, these girls are easy prey for traffickers.

\* young girls and women are tempted by a traffickers false promise of education and / or well paid work and disappear into the hugely profitable sex industry.



## why education helps?

The longer a girl is in education, the less vulnerable she is to exploitation and trafficking. Its as simple as that.

The Duaripara project works with families to help change attitudes towards education and raise awareness about the dangers of trafficking. They also educate people about health issues such as HIV/AIDS, diarrhoea and malnutrition.

The girls first attend a 'catch-up' programme which enables them to re-enrol in formal education. They also provide after-school support to ensure progress.

The project takes a holistic approach so the families are supported through community outreach. This includes health care and economic support, like savings groups and training opportunities.

## about Oasis Bangladesh

The Oasis Bangladesh Duaripara project is based in Pallabi slum in the north of Dhaka. Its primary focus is on ensuring that girls who are vulnerable to trafficking and exploitation remain in school. Oasis' Anti-trafficking programme in Bangladesh focuses on two main areas: Repatriation of trafficking survivors and Co-ordinating STOP THE TRAFFIK Bangladesh. They also run a fair trade manufacturing company which provides employment in a region where people are at high risk of trafficking and are seeking to work with the surrounding communities.

**Oasis**  
for people & community

**STOP THE TRAFFIK**  
PEOPLE SHOULDN'T BE BOUGHT & SOLD

