



# EMPOWERING VULNERABLE CHILDREN IN INDIA

Annual Report 2020 – 2021

# What we do

Scottish Love in Action work with local partners in India to empower vulnerable children and young people to change their lives.

Our partners provide the highest quality of care and education. They care for girls rescued from the streets, they enable the transition from adolescence to independent adulthood and they empower girls and boys through knowledge, all underpinned by the importance of education. It is this learning and these skills that children and young people need to enable them to grow into resilient, self-reliant, confident adults and give them the opportunity to thrive.

For over 21 years we have created generational change for the most vulnerable, giving them the tools to break free from poverty and transform their lives, families and communities for years to come.



## Founder's Introduction

### Happy 21st birthday SLA!

Dear Friends,

***This is a bitter sweet time of reflection for us all. Despite the devastation of Covid we look back with joy on 21 years of SLA's positive impact on the lives of over 11,500 children and young people, empowering them to escape poverty and change their lives and those of future generations.***

In our 21st year India became a virus epicentre, experiencing a brutal second wave which impacted hugely on the lives of children in particular. Our partners Rainbow Home and Voice 4 Girls responded with resilience and agility in order to continue their work. ASRITHA Rainbow Home staff and children, in their confined space

during lockdown kept strong, physically and emotionally; Voice maintained life-line mobile contact and support with their girls and boys.

During 2021 SLA had to adapt its plans in order to raise funds in this challenging environment so that our partners could continue their essential work. We would like to thank you all very sincerely for your loyal support as donors during this period.

We have successfully launched a 'Livelihood Project' providing life-skills and vocational training, potentially transforming the lives of 600 Rainbow young people. SLA's sister charity, 'The Pipal Foundation' dairy farm, is ready to travel to India to buy land and establish a Social Enterprise as soon as it is safe to do so.

With the loss of millions of lives from Covid world-wide, our human and environmental interdependence has been tragically demonstrated. Let us be even more determined to join hands and prove that even in small ways, our actions in reaching out to these Indian children and young people count...the power of one can change the world. I thank you dear supporters most sincerely for all your concern and amazing support.

With love, Gillie

# India & Covid

India has the second highest number of Covid cases in the world with over 34 million reported cases and more than 460,000\* deaths. Experts say that these figures are likely to be under reported. \*Figures accurate at time of print.

A study by the Indian Azim Premji University reports that 230 million people in India have slipped back into poverty as a result of the pandemic – an increase of 15% to 20%.

The biggest impact is on children and young girls in particular, many of whom it is feared will not return to education. We know that education is the route out of poverty. Schools have been closed since the original lockdown in March 2020. Although there has been online learning, that depends on access to technology which many of the poorest do not have. It has reported that there has been an increase in child marriages and many children are working in the home or fields. SLA's partners have responded creatively to the challenges of the pandemic and their work is more important than ever. By the same token, SLA's work with our partners is more important than ever.

## OUR PROJECTS 2019-20



**VOICE 4 Girls**  
Telangana

**ASRITHA**  
**Rainbow Home**  
Hyderabad

**Livelihoods Project**  
Hyderabad  
Kolkata  
Bangalore

**The Pipal Foundation**  
Andhra Pradesh



**1999**

QII Expedition  
Light of Love  
Children's Home  
in Tuni built  
**120 children**

# 21 YEARS OF SLA

**2000**

SLA registered charity  
Partnership with  
NASA, Dr Premdas

## HAPPY 21ST BIRTHDAY SLA!

Thank you to all our wonderful donors,  
staff, trustees, volunteers and Indian and  
Scottish partners who have walked alongside  
the children of SLA empowering  
them to change their lives through  
care, education and love.

**2004**

Kenneth McRae & Dougal  
Smart Classrooms  
Well drilled – fresh water  
Canonmills B C Toilet  
block  
**225 children**

**2005**

GWC Dining Hall  
ESMC Kitchen  
**343 children**

**2006**

Founder,  
**Gillie Davidson**  
awarded MBE  
for services for  
children in India  
and UK

**2010**

English Literacy  
Programme  
Intermediate  
College entrants

**2009**

RIADA Dormitory  
Block for Boys  
Immunisation  
Programme  
**500 children**

**2007**

BGT Further  
Education Fund  
Hyderabad Home  
& School for **200**  
children  
**430 children**  
in Tuni

2011

Indian Volunteer  
Expedition Programme

**200+** volunteers  
visit by 2021

2012

100% 10th class  
graduation

**85** in Further  
Education

**600+** children

2014

Raise the Roof Appeal  
2-storey boys block  
Medical Centre

2016

ASRITHA  
Rainbow Home -  
**100+** street girls

2016

VOICE 4 Girls  
**8730** adolescent  
girls and boys  
by 2021

1999-2021

**11,500+** children  
and young people  
empowered to  
change their  
lives

21<sup>st</sup>  
BIRTHDAY

SCOTTISH LOVE IN ACTION

2020

Livelihoods Project -  
**600** young people  
each year

2019

SLA's sister charity



2019

Partnership with  
NASA ends

# Livelihoods Project

In our 21st year we are excited to be supporting a new and very important 'Livelihoods Project' with our partner Rainbow Homes.

The Livelihoods Project realises SLA's long-held dream of working with our partners to create meaningful, sustainable, life-changing opportunities for less academic young people as they grow up, leave school and move on to adult life. For young people without family support, leaving home is a huge challenge. This project recognises and addresses their needs as they transition from residential care to independent living.

**£10**

WILL ENABLE A  
YOUNG PERSON  
TO ACCESS 6 'JOB-  
READINESS' SES-  
SIONS

**"Investing in  
adolescents could  
break entrenched  
cycles of poverty  
and inequality."**

**UNICEF**

The Livelihoods Project aims to work with 600 young people across Hyderabad, Kolkata and Bangalore, providing essential knowledge and learning from trusted adults on Life Skills and Vocational Training. It includes how to find and keep a job; access to work experience and training opportunities; and mentoring and workshops on managing money, finding accommodation, relationships and staying healthy.

This tailored approach equips young people with the skills and knowledge they need for life: support from trusted adults is even more valuable during the current crisis.



## Ishan's Story



Ishan's father left the family when he was 5. Ishan's mother tried her best to support him and his brothers and sisters – but with no education or previous work experience, she was forced to beg on the streets and couldn't provide for her children. Ishan and his siblings came to the Ummeed Rainbow Home in Delhi in 2007.

Now 18, Ishan is completing his final exams. He is living in a shared flat with other Rainbow Home boys in Bangalore. They're getting to experience living independently, while benefitting from the support of the Livelihoods Project. Ishan has managed to secure some part-time delivery work to supplement his living costs whilst he studies.

Ishan hopes to become a videographer and the Livelihoods Project has helped him gain a place on a one-year Videography course. The project's help with tuition fees and living expenses means Ishan can concentrate on making his dreams a reality.



# ASRITHA Rainbow Home

SLA funds the ASRITHA Rainbow Home in Hyderabad, caring for more than 100 girls rescued from the streets. In January 2020, Rainbow Homes estimated there were more than 36,000 'street children' in Hyderabad.

ASRITHA Home has been on the frontline throughout the pandemic, moving fast to put in place stringent health and hygiene measures and to provide education within the Home. The children were well cared for, even as the pandemic developed into an emergency situation in India. None of the ASRITHA children contracted Covid. All of the girls sitting their 10th year exams passed, an outstanding result. Counselling and motivational support was put in place to ensure the girls stayed happy and relaxed while in the Home throughout lockdown.

Arunmai Racherla, the Rainbow Homes State Programme Manager and valued Indian colleague of SLA, received an 'Unsung Hero of 2020 Award' from the World Human Rights Organisation of India for services to global pandemic relief.

The British Deputy High Commissioner in Hyderabad, Andrew Fleming says: "Rainbow Homes makes a significant difference, protecting vulnerable young people and ensuring that they have the best chances in life."

**DURING  
COVID 100%  
GRADUATION  
RATE FROM  
HIGH  
SCHOOL**



## Akhila's Story



Akhila and her 3 sisters came to the ASRITHA Rainbow Home when they were very young. Their parents were migrant labourers with no permanent home, as they moved around to try and find work. The continual moving meant the children were not enrolled in school. They had no electricity, drinking water, sanitary system or hospital nearby. The irregularity of work meant that sometimes there was no food too. When their parents did find work the girls were left alone to fend for themselves.

When Akhila and her sisters came to the Home they all received a lot of support and care, including 'Bridge Classes' to help them catch up with their education before entering mainstream school. Akhila is now in 10th Class. Despite her difficult start, she is a caring, confident girl who has made many friends and shows good leadership skills. Akhila is clearly thriving at ASRITHA Rainbow Home.

# VOICE 4 Girls

SLA supports VOICE 4 Girls to provide education and empowerment programmes for adolescent girls and boys in Telangana state.

In the last year VOICE 4 Girls adapted their programmes for online delivery using mobile phones to girls and boys at home, recruiting and training counsellors to give sessions covering how to negotiate to stay in school, to not be married early or forced into low-paid work and reproductive and sexual health - all issues which have become more critical during the pandemic.

Education is key and over the last year VOICE has been encouraging and motivating adolescents to ensure they maintain their education by accessing online school.

The SLA funded programmes reached 1150 girls and 545 boys, well in excess of the numbers initially discussed.

Online delivery brought an unexpected bonus, as adolescents immediately shared what they had learnt with their friends and family in their village and communities. VOICE report that mothers (often aged under 30 themselves) regularly 'listened in' and learnt with their children. This "ripple" effect of VOICE programmes is a key element in how the VOICE model creates meaningful, lasting social change.

During the online sessions girls told the VOICE counsellors that the closure of schools had put them at higher risk of violence and child marriage. Loneliness and its impact on mental wellbeing is also a growing area of concern. The VOICE programmes address these issues, providing a vital "safe space" to share experiences.

**£18**  
**SENDS 1 GIRL**  
**TO A 10-DAY**  
**VOICE CAMP**



## Sindhuja's Story



Sindhuja attended VOICE camps learning that child marriage is detrimental to a girl. She also learnt to take leadership and support people around her.

One of Sindhuja's cousins, barely 14, was being married off as her parents were both critically ill. When Sindhuja heard of this, she decided to speak up. She says, "I spoke to my father about why child marriage is wrong and how there are laws to prevent it. He understood my point and went to talk to my cousin's parents."

Her relatives defended their decision, worried no one would take care of their daughter once they are gone. Sindhuja's father proposed to adopt her cousin after they died, to which they agreed.

Ultimately Sindhuja was able to prevent the marriage from happening. She says, "I am thrilled to have made such a huge difference in my cousin's life. She is so happy that her wedding has been called off. Thank you VOICE 4 Girls for giving me the knowledge and confidence to do this."



# Social Enterprise Project

Central to its role as a capacity builder and funder, SLA has established a sister charity, The Pipal Foundation (TPF) partnering with the University of Edinburgh's Royal (Dick) School for Veterinary Studies.

TPF will provide sustainable funding for Indian grassroots organisations, as well as an additional source of funding for SLA's partner projects.



THE UNIVERSITY  
of EDINBURGH

The Pipal Foundation project is on a par with the most ambitious current international social enterprise initiatives and relates well to the Scottish Government's strategy to increase international links in social enterprise.

The aim of TPF, through a subsidiary in India, is to develop a dairy farm in Andhra Pradesh, to serve as a centre of excellence and help deliver wider community benefits in rural areas. It is the intention that this will provide sustainable funding for recognised NGOs engaged in child welfare activities and will also provide an additional source of funding for SLA's partner projects.

Both TPF and the Indian company maintain close links with SLA, ensuring strategy and vision are closely aligned. TPF work with partners in India and in Scotland on this initiative.



The initiative was paused in March 2020, though work is now resuming and TPF's partners are searching for a suitable plot of land for this project. Once identified work will move ahead as swiftly as possible to allow the farm to be designed, constructed and dairy cattle purchased.



# Fundraising News

This year was our most challenging fundraising year due to Covid restrictions with the cancellation of our Fireworks Extravaganza and other in person events.

We explored other initiatives, the most successful of which are now in our fundraising calendar.

Massive thanks go to all who have been so creative and dedicated in fundraising for us in this especially testing year.



**RAISED  
£10,700**

In November 2020, we launched our Diwali Dinner to celebrate the Festival of Light. Despite Covid restrictions stopping in-person gatherings, the event was a resounding success with many celebrating over Zoom instead! All monies raised were generously match funded by our corporate partner Truscott Property pound for pound. We also partnered up for the first time with Spice Pots, who donated all the delicious Curry Night Kits. The event attracted 362 registrations and raised nearly £10,700. Thank you to all who took part and special thanks to SLA volunteer Venetia Thomson who packaged and distributed all the Kits.

 **Diwali  
DINNER**  
Celebrating the Festival of Light

**TRUSCOTT  
PROPERTY**  
EVERY £10  
BECOMES £20,  
EVERY £20  
BECOMES £40!



SPICE  
POTS

**THE  
BIG GIVE  
£16,900**



**ISLE OF HARRIS  
CEILIDH BOTTLE  
RAFFLE  
£2,259**

**21ST  
BIRTHDAY  
£13,200**

**21 FOR 21  
CHALLENGE  
£4,300**

Last year SLA took part in the Big Give Christmas Challenge 2021 for the first time and raised almost £17,000! All donations were “magically doubled” through the campaign’s matched funding. This success allowed us to support the online VOICE 4 Girls programme, which was a lifeline to so many adolescent girls and boys during Covid.

# What's Next?

We have a wide range of events and exciting new initiatives for 2022!  
We would love for you to save the dates and join us.

Launching  
**SPRING**  
2022

**JOIN PIP!**

**Pip's INDIAN ADVENTURES**

Calling all inquisitive and adventurous children to join Pip on a journey around India for a year's worth of fun and learning.

India is 7500 km away from Scotland and I'm going to be on a plane to India for a whole day. Mumbai, where we are going first, is the largest city in India although New Delhi is India's capital.

7500km

Why don't we play by burning some? All you need is a bit and two little packets.

Book your tickets!

## Fireworks Extravaganza WE'RE BACK!

Sunday 6th November 2022  
George Watson's Rugby  
Ground, Edinburgh

## Book Café

Saturday 5th March 2022  
George Watson's College,  
Edinburgh



## INDIAN SUMMER FLING

Fabulous party evening  
of fizz, fun and food.  
Saturday 30th  
September 2022  
Prestonfield House,  
Edinburgh

## Ladies Cinema Night 'Thelma and Louise'

Thursday 24th February 2022  
Dominion Cinema, Edinburgh

**Evening of Classical Music**  
with the talented Aquillo Wind Quintet  
Saturday 5th March 2022  
Greenbank Parish Church,  
Edinburgh



Visit our website to find out more and purchase tickets.





# Partnering with SLA

SLA is all about partnerships, both in India and in Scotland.

As businesses across the world faced severe challenges this year, we couldn't be more thankful for our partnerships. Working together to build mutually beneficial partnerships we can keep making a difference for the most vulnerable children and young people in India.

We are always on the lookout for companies and organisations that want to help us to empower vulnerable children, whether with financial or in-kind support. If this sounds like you, please get in touch.

## Truscott Property

In 2019 we were delighted to begin our partnership with Edinburgh estate agent **Truscott Property** as sole sponsors of the Fireworks Extravaganza, committing to a further two years' of sponsorship. Covid restrictions, forcing the cancellation of Fireworks Extravaganza 2020, put this on hold. Instead, Truscott Property generously match funded our Diwali Dinner 2020.

## Spice Pots

We are happy to announce that Spice Pots have agreed to partner with us and we look forward to working with them. Spice Pots donated their fabulous Curry Night kits for our Diwali Dinner as well as participating in some other new initiatives throughout the year.

## Tuk Tuk

During Year 3 of partnership, and the temporary closure of their restaurants due to Covid restrictions, Tuk Tuk continued to support SLA's fundraising events. With the re-opening of their restaurants, their Dine and Donate scheme for SLA is back up and running. In Years 1 and 2 of the partnership, it raised enough to provide an amazing 116,653 meals for the girls at ASRITHA Rainbow Home.

TRUSCOTT  
PROPERTY



## Pro-Bono Support Emily Bell Digital

With all of our fundraising being online and our digital communications becoming so vital over the last 18 months, Emily Bell's offer of pro-bono consultancy could not have come at a more opportune moment.

Emily's expertise has helped us implement a new Social Media Strategy and promote different fundraisers using Facebook Paid Advertising. Special thanks also to our two brilliant Napier University Social Media Interns, Megan Williams and Eve Maloney, who both helped deliver our Social Media Strategy throughout the year.



Megan Williams



Emily Bell



Eve Maloney



## Leaving a Legacy

Over the last 21 years, legacies have helped SLA make fundamental improvements to lives of children; from funding a comprehensive child immunisation programmes to the building of additional classrooms, funding the children's unit of a new medical centre and the essential ongoing care of the children we support today.

After you have made provision for your loved ones, please consider leaving a gift to SLA in your will. It would enable us to continue giving life-changing support to vulnerable children and young people for years to come and ensure that each child receives the education and life skills needed to develop their unique potential, escape the poverty trap and lead productive, independent lives.

Donations of any size are welcome. Any amount will go a surprisingly long way to making a difference for these children.

# Financial Review

Summary from SLA's financial statements for the year 2020-2021.



## SLA Income 2020-2021

This report refers to our financial year, which runs from July 2020 to June 2021. Our income for the year was £320,012 (2020: £263,284). Individual donations continue to be of key importance to our fundraising efforts. Sincere thanks are due to each of our donors and supporters. The hard work of our staff, trustees and volunteers is also crucial in generating our income. In light of Covid, our focus on income diversification and development of sustainable fundraising activities remains of critical importance.

## SLA Expenditure 2020-2021

Our expenditure for the year was £230,867 (2020: £278,988). Scottish expenditure continued to be closely monitored through the year and cost savings continue to be made. SLA's aim is to minimise the cost of raising funds wherever possible, greatly helped by the resource provided by our committed and hardworking trustees and volunteers.

## SLA Overall Position

The Statement of Financial Activities reflects net income of £89,145 (2020: net expenditure of £15,704). There was an increase of £95,295 (2020: deficit of £2,114) on the Trust's unrestricted general fund activities and a deficit of £6,150 (2020: deficit of £13,590) on restricted funds. Total funds carried forward amounted to £239,552 (2020: £150,407).

## Governance

SLA operates as a company limited by guarantee and is recognised as a charity with the Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator. The Board of Trustees is responsible for governance and strategy.

## 2020/21 Board of Trustees

Alison Erlanger (Chair – from 24th September 2020, previously James Inch), Richard Dunbar (Vice Chair – from 4th February 2021, previously Mabel Mowatt and James Young), Philip Barnes, Sheila Cannell, Christopher Horne, Clare Jack, Mabel Mowatt, Laura Murphy, Lesley Murphy, James O'Malley.

A copy of the full set of independently examined accounts is available on request from Scottish Love in Action, Greyfriars Charteris Centre, 138-140 The Pleasance, Edinburgh, EH8 9RR.



# I WISH TO HELP THE WORK OF SLA

Please tick the stars below as appropriate.

☆ I wish to donate to SLA and make a donation of

- Cheques can be made payable to 'SLA'.
- To donate using online banking our details are:  
**Account number: 00164481 Sort Code 80-02-77.**
- To donate by phone please call the SLA Office on **0131 629 9112**  
or donate online at **www.sla-india.org**

☆ I wish to make a regular donation of:

£3 ☐ £5 ☐ £10 ☐ £20 ☐ Other   
Starting on 1st ☐ 15th ☐ 25th ☐ of month/year

For all monthly donations please complete the Direct Debit form opposite.

For all single and monthly donations please complete your details below:

Title & Name

Address

Telephone

Email

**Boost your donation by 25p of Gift Aid for every £1 you donate.**

☆ I would like to Gift Aid my donation and any donations I make in the future to SLA. I am a UK taxpayer and understand that if I pay less Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax than the amount of Gift Aid claimed on all of my donations in that tax year it is my responsibility to pay any difference.

*giftaid it*

Signature

Date

SLA would like to send you further information about our activities.

I would like to receive this ☆ By email

By post ☆

SLA will not pass your details on to any 3rd parties.

Please return this form with your donation to:

**Scottish Love in Action, Greyfriars Charteris Centre,  
140 The Pleasance, Edinburgh, EH8 9RR.**



Originator's Identification Number

3 8 8 5 4 4



## Instructions to your Bank or Building Society to pay Direct Debit

Scottish Love in Action, Greyfriars Charteris Centre, 140 The Pleasance, Edinburgh, EH8 9RR

**DO NOT RETURN TO YOUR BANK**

Name and full postal address of your Bank/Building Society

To The Manager	Bank/Building Society
Address	
Postcode	

Name(s) of Account holder(s)

Bank/Building Society Account Number

Branch Sort Code

Reference No (For Scottish Love in Action use only)

Bank and Building Societies may not accept Direct Debit Instruction for some types of account. We will send you a copy of the Direct Debit Guarantee for your reference and confirm details as soon as we receive your complete Direct Debit Form.

Instructions to your Bank or Building Society

Please pay Scottish Love in Action of the United Kingdom Direct Debits from the account detailed in this instruction subject to safeguards assured by the Direct Debit Guarantee. I understand that this instruction may remain with Scottish Love in Action and, if so, details will be passed electronically to my Bank/Building Society

Signature	X
	X
Date	

## SCOTTISH LOVE IN ACTION ☆ EMPOWERING VULNERABLE CHILDREN IN INDIA

SLA, Greyfriars Charteris Centre, 140 The Pleasance, Edinburgh, EH8 9RR  
0131 629 9112 : enquiries@sla-india.org : [www.sla-india.org](http://www.sla-india.org)

A registered Scottish Charity. Charity Number SC030516. Company Number SC280397



# EMPOWERING VULNERABLE CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE IN INDIA

Scottish Love in Action work with local partners in India to empower vulnerable children and young people to change their lives. Our partners provide the highest quality of care and education. For over 21 years we have created generational change for the most vulnerable, giving them the tools to break free from poverty and transform their lives, families and communities for years to come.

[www.sla-india.org](http://www.sla-india.org)

## CONTACT DETAILS

### BY E-MAIL

[enquiries@sla-india.org](mailto:enquiries@sla-india.org)

### BY TELEPHONE

0131 629 9112

### BY POST

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