

5. A Study on the 'Destination Side' of the Trafficking of Nepalese Girls to India

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Today, members of the anti-trafficking community clearly recognize an urgent need to develop new interventions to: a) prevent trafficking on the destination side by reducing the demand for trafficked persons; and b) release Nepalese girls and women from harmful brothel situations in India.

If the need is so urgent, why – in a decade – have no interventions been targeted at Nepalese girls in Indian brothels? First, we can't develop interventions because we don't know the situation – no in-depth qualitative study of Nepalese girls in their 'trafficked environment' has ever been conducted. Second, brothel communities are dangerous, criminalized environments, and interventions are far more challenging than conducting awareness campaigns in Nepalese villages. Third, geographical, political and funding constraints have made it difficult for Nepalese NGOs, government and Nepal-based donors to conduct interventions in India on behalf of Nepalese girls.

This research project intends to lay the foundation for new interventions to prevent trafficking and to release Nepalese victims of trafficking from bondage. Utilizing *Terres des hommes'* strong linkages between Nepal and India, research teams will enter the Indian brothels to conduct in-depth qualitative interviews with trafficked Nepalese girls, clients, madams, pimps and 'enforcers'. It will collect information to develop interventions to mobilize clients and the brothel communities to resist the use of Nepalese children and trafficked persons, as has been proven effective with Indian trafficked girls in Sonagachi, Kolkata. And, with every consideration for the protection of both trafficked children and the researchers themselves, it will investigate the hidden 'operations' of trafficking at the source, to collect information that will lead to the release of trafficked girls, and their repatriation home to Nepal.

