



## Child Sponsorship COVID-19 Update Aruna Children's Shelter, India

Since the coronavirus hit India in March, the Aruna Children's Shelter has continued to provide protective care to girls at risk of exploitation in Mumbai's red-light district. While in the home, the girls have been continuing their studies online. Every day, they spend time in prayer together and enjoy indoor games during their free time. Their mothers, who earn money in prostitution, stay in contact with their children through the phone. Aside from caring for the children, the staff have been diligently implementing strategies that ensure the safety of the children within the home. These safety measures include ramping up cleaning measures, imposing limitations on visitors, rearranging beds to adhere to social distancing requirements, providing hand washing stations near doors, daily temperature checks, ensuring availability of personal protective equipment such as facemasks and gloves for children and staff, and identifying and equipping a temporary quarantine room in the event that one of the children falls ill.

Thank you for supporting the Aruna Children's Shelter during this global pandemic. Your sponsorship is helping ensure children at risk of exploitation have access to counseling, safe shelter and education during these challenging times.

### Prayer Requests



Pray for Provision. Many of the children's mothers who earn money through prostitution are struggling immensely during this time and lack access to food and basic needs.



Pray for Safety. Pray for the children's health and that the Aruna Children's Shelter would remain COVID-19 free.

The Salvation Army's **Aruna Children's Shelter** stands against child abuse and exploitation by providing holistic care, protection and education to girls in Mumbai's Red-Light District

## Meet Avni\*

Avni lived on the street with her mother and two siblings in the Red-Light District since she was born. Her mother had been earning money through prostitution for more than 10 years. When Avni was 5, she was brought to live in the Aruna Shelter so that she could be protected from exploitation and have an opportunity for a better life. When Avni arrived, she was very unkempt, distressed and suffered from a persistent cough. Five years later, Avni is 10 years old and thriving. The staff ensured she received medical treatment and her health has been restored. She is very respectful, leads the prayer time and knows many Bible stories. Although she was raised Hindu by her mother, Avni says, "I love Jesus and will never forget Him or The Salvation Army because through The Salvation



Army, He has given me new life." Her mother, who visits Fatima at the shelter regularly, has also expressed gratitude to The Salvation Army for taking care of her daughter.

*\*Names have been changed for confidentiality*



# CHILD SPONSORSHIP

Together, we help children rise above adversity and reach their full potential.

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