

Looking ahead – WIN Goals for 2021-22

Making the future brighter for women in need



We would like to share some of WIN's aspirations for future development and invite you to have an active role in helping us reach our goals.

This may come in the form of thoughts, ideas, and advice. Perhaps you have contacts who can further our development plans. You may even create a fundraising drive to help WIN reach a program target. Whatever it is, we welcome a dialogue with you, our supporters. Please feel free to contact start2womeninneed@gmail.com for further information relating to any of the following initiatives:

1. Making a documentary – Whether it be mental illness, HIV, cancer, leprosy or poverty, those of us who have worked on WIN's front-line never fail to be moved or inspired by the compelling stories of the women we support. Staged in the theatre of Indian life, we discover tragedy, comedy, courage, and triumph – humanity at its most raw. These women are ignored, many abandoned by families. Some believe themselves worthless or even deserving of their suffering. Yet it is their ability to survive against insurmountable odds which distinguishes them as women of great courage.

We are seeking to make a short film highlighting the plight of the women WIN supports. We are looking for anyone with film and editing skills who would be willing to travel out to India next year to document WIN's work. We would also wish to submit the resulting film into the Charity Film awards and other similar platforms.



2. Building on WIN's land

- Below: before and after images of a Cob House using clay, wood, and stone, similar to building technique used in Mahatma Gandhi's Ashram structures



All of WIN's premises in Nagpur and Wardha are rented. Constraints of funding and planning permission have prevented the charity from developing its own centralised infrastructure. WIN has an acre and a half of land on the outskirts of Nagpur, in the heart of Nagpur's famous orange growing region. The beauty of the land's location is that the surrounding area will not be used for future industrial development. Being in a green zone has meant however years of waiting for planning permission. Now however we are the brink of getting that permission and they key lies in adopting green building techniques.

Our vision is to create a sanctuary for women in need of help. A place where those who are abandoned, sick and exhausted can restore their physical and mental strength, learn new skills and move forward in their lives with a renewed sense of hope and purpose. This will come in the form of a shelter, training centre, office, and guest facilities. A centre of excellence where women will access help from trained, skilled workers as well as international volunteers.

The structure will be created using techniques successfully adopted by Mahatma Gandhi in the construct of his ashrams nearly 100 years ago; buildings that are standing today. The same techniques have been successfully applied to modern structures, such as the one depicted above in Devon, which is 10,000 SqFt.

Using natural materials in the dry, hot climate of Central India creates a cooler living and working environment within. This saves on energy to power cooling devises in the summer. And with the addition of solar energy, our facilities will cut energy use even further.

3. Making the Jewel of Satpura Cycle Challenge happen in 2022

There are some of you who signed up for our cycle fundraiser, which we had to cancel

because of COVID 19. Well, we are determined to full fill our promise of a "ride of a lifetime" and are looking at the end of January 2022 – ***the perfect time to address any Christmas excess and to escape the winter weather for something warmer.***

Anyone interested in joining us for an adventure, please get in touch for more details



News September–October

As October was breast cancer awareness month, we wanted to feature some of the women you have helped give a fighting chance to beat cancer

Beating non-Hodgkin's lymphoma

20 year old Nikita was featured in WIN's website blog in May 2019 as she battled high grade NHL. With no parents, Nikita lives with her two brothers who are farm labourers in a village 80 km from Nagpur.



The prognosis for NHL is often good, but for underprivileged women like Nikita, the condition can remain undiagnosed until the disease has advanced. Due to the side effects of chemotherapy, Nikita wanted to stop treatment mid-way. WIN's social workers counselled Nikita, travelling 3 hours each visit to motivate her to continue with chemotherapy.

Thanks to your support, Nikita's cancer is in remission and she continues with her education.



How did we support Nikita?

- WIN provided 6 months travel expenses to Nagpur Government College Hospital
- Provided symptomatic treatment & the cost of diagnostic tests
- Provided food
- Counselling

WIN resumes screening for breast cancer

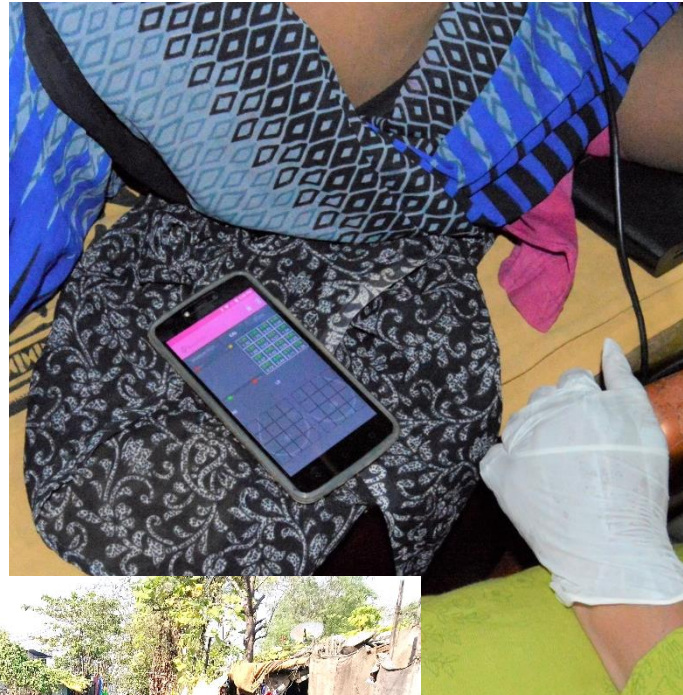
Following the easing of lock down restrictions, WIN has resumed breast cancer screening in communities located on the outskirts of Nagpur. Using the iBreastExam device, the charity offers safe examinations in the privacy of the women's homes.

The charity is currently screening smaller numbers of women due to Covid 19.



India's breast cancer survival rate is one of the lowest in the world due to late detection

Below: our iBE is used in extremely poor communities where there is little opportunity for women to access preventative screening



Sayatra has a lot to be happy about

Sayatra today



Sayatra last year



Last year labourer Sayatra asked WIN for help following a diagnosis of cervical cancer. With no means of supporting herself she told doctors at Nagpur's

government hospital that she would not be able to have the lifesaving surgery she urgently needed. Taking time off for surgery would mean losing her job and without the daily wages she depends on, she wouldn't be able to afford food, let alone the cost of post-operative care.

The harsh reality for many women like Sayatra is that whilst some treatment is free, not all of it is. Diagnostic MRI's and CT Scans can be costly in some government hospital. Transport from home to an appointment can equal the daily cost of food. Taking time off work means no money and the loss of the job. All government hospitals require patients to be accompanied by a friend or family member 24/7 to assist with bathing, toileting and feeding. Coming from such poor communities' women like Sayatra are rarely able to find such a person who can afford the time to stay in a hospital with her— sleeping on the ward floor for days at a time.

When you understand the complexities of the situation – appreciate the many obstacles that stand in the way of underprivileged women receiving treatment, then you begin to realise why there is such a high cancer mortality rate.

For women like Sayatra, support from WIN can mean the difference between life and death

Faces of Hope – women beating cancer with our help



Gang rape and murder of low caste woman by upper cast men highlights caste-based divides

WIN occasionally features news articles relating to Indian women to inform our readers. Such articles may contain religious or political bias. WIN is a humanitarian organization and does not propagate religious or political views.

The following article highlights a case of gang rape that occurred in September. It received global media attention, including condemnation from the United Nations. Indian students, professors and scholars staged a protest in the United Kingdom in memory of the victim, and protests in the US were also staged in Times Square



Four Dalit (low caste) women are raped every day. There are cases where women are raped inside the police station as they go to file a complaint of sexual harassment, there are also cases where, even if rape charges are registered, the SC/ST Atrocities Act is not implemented. NCRB (National Crimes Record Bureau) data shows the conviction rate for crimes against Dalits and Adivasis (tribal women) is much lower than

the rest. What else is this if not institutional, structural bias built around caste solidarity between criminal, police, and judiciary?

That's why Dalit women's bodies can be made an easy site of violence: there's no risk, no price to pay, the perpetrator is confident about the impunity, the social-political protection he gets by virtue of being from a ruling caste. For decades this has been an implicit bias—a tendency to favour—but now it is brazen and demanded as a right.

The recent incident of a 19 year old rape victim from the Hathras district in Northern India highlights this bias. Here it is not just the attackers who committed the crime, but the authorities too treated her family with indignity – before and after death.

The 19-year-old woman was cutting grass to feed the family's five milk buffalo when she was taken away by a group of upper-caste men on Sept. 14, according to her brother.

Her tongue was cut and her spinal cord was broken after she was dragged by her neck with a rope. It took days of repeated complaints before the police finally acted and arrested the 4 accused, who are from upper caste families living near to the victim's home.

For 14 days the victim fought for her life. She named her attackers and described the brutality of the incident. Unfortunately, she died from her injuries.

A post-mortem shockingly concluded that there was no evidence of rape. Then the victim's body was taken away by the police and cremated in the middle of the night without the family's consent. They were not even allowed to see her face. The victim's mother wanted to take her daughter's body home for rituals before the last rites, but her request was denied.

Videos shared widely on news TV channels and social media show the victims distraught family and villagers making several attempts to claim her body as the police ambulance arrived in the village.

In one video, her mother is seen weeping with her head on the bonnet of the car. In another, she's sitting on the road in front of the ambulance, weeping and beating her chest.

She's heard repeatedly pleading with officials to hand over the body to her so she could take it home one last time - and perform some rituals.

According to the victim's brother the police beat up members of the family when they protested to see the body, adding that even women members of the family were beaten up.

"They took the body away without our permission, without the permission of my parents and cremated her. We didn't even get to see her one last time," he said.

Her death has sparked anger across the country. Dalit activists have shut down the main market in Hathras and are demanding action against police officers.

Several opposition leaders have condemned the incident, calling it "insulting and unjust".

Dalits are some of India's most downtrodden citizens because of an unforgiving Hindu caste hierarchy that condemns them to the bottom of the ladder. Despite laws that protect them, discrimination remains a daily reality for the Dalit population, thought to number around 200 million.

"If you are woman in India and poor and a Dalit—then there is no position worse than that." - Ranjana Kumari of the Centre for Social Studies.

According to data from India's National Crimes Record Bureau, more than four Dalit women are raped every day.

According to Rita Izsák, UN Special Rapporteur on Minority Issues, what results in widespread underreporting of cases is society's tendency to blame the victim, especially when she belongs to a lower caste. In her work, she found that violation against Dalit women is not restricted to physical abuse – due to discrimination, Dalit girls have lower literacy levels, drop-out rates are higher and they are prevented from pursuing an education