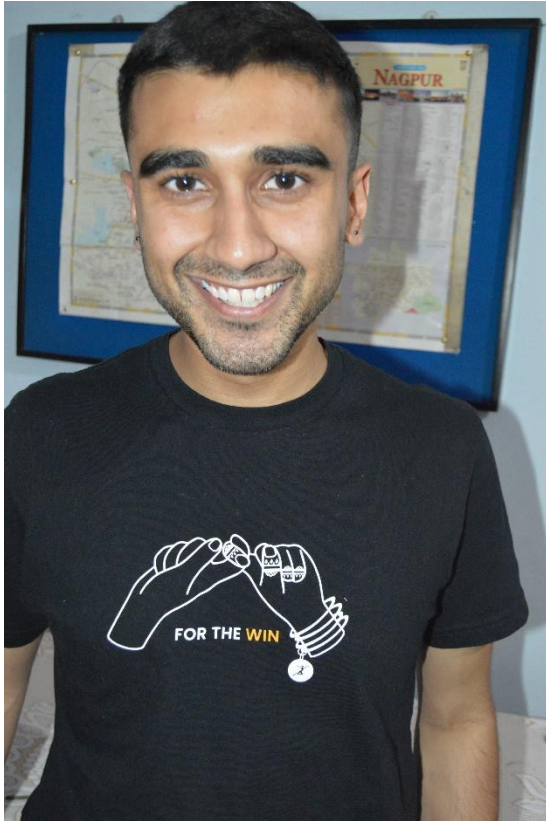


Wishing you all a very Happy Easter!

Thank you for continuing to give new life and hope to our ladies in India.



**JAZBA Founder Anish Chandak visits Nagpur to open WIN's Women's Welfare Centre**

In January this year Anish travelled from the US to India. His last visit was in January 2020, when unfortunately, due to the pandemic he was forced to cut short a 3 month sabbatical devoted to offering his managerial skills to the charity's operations in Nagpur.

This time Anish was our guest of honour officially opening WIN's Women's Welfare Centre in the village of Mangrul. The centre offers respite shelter, vocational training, and is a satellite base from which our health awareness and screening programmes can serve the surrounding villages.

As always, it is a pleasure to host our wonderful supporters.



# JAZBA double whammy as past and present Executive Directors visit WIN's operations.



Past exec director Sonali Mucherla was a major figure in the US non-profit JAZBA, generating funds for WIN over a period of 3 years, including during the pandemic when JAZBA's dance competition was cancelled. Her sister Manisha took up the mantle and along with the current executive members has pulled off an incredible seventh season of DANCE, PASSION & CHANGE in support of WIN.

It was a delight to welcome these incredible young women in Nagpur and introduce them to some of those who have benefited from their generosity.



*"What an incredible experience. From the amazing hospitality from the entire WIN team and seeing, hearing, and learning from the women themselves was an experience we will never forget. We cannot wait to visit again, and we love the entire WIN team x".*

**(Manisha Mucherla)**



# Sensitisation of health workers required to address specific needs of adolescents living with HIV in India.



Over the last 20 years WIN has supported mothers and children living with HIV. We've watched those children grow into young adults, helping them along the way with their medical, educational, and emotional needs.

It is around adolescence that we have encountered issues relating to the discontinuation of ARV treatment, which if not addressed sensitively can result in loss of life.

Adolescence is a time marked by heightened self-consciousness and a need to conform to peer behaviour which contributes to increased vulnerability. We support teenagers through issues relating to poor body image caused by underdeveloped growth. Bullying at college forces many to drop out of further education – the only means for gifted students to escape poverty. Some face sustained discrimination at home due to ignorance of HIV transmission.

A small independent study conducted in Pune ARV centre revealed a third of adolescents taking part either died or lost contact with the ARV centre over a period of 6 years. This suggests a lack of support tailored to the needs of young +ve adults.

On the 15<sup>th</sup> of March, 17 year old Rimjhim was referred to WIN.

Weighing two stone, she'd stopped ARV's due to bullying at college. An 11<sup>th</sup> standard student and keen artist Rimjhim lives with her grandmother, having lost her mother at birth and her father two years later. An extreme example of AIDS related wasting syndrome Rimjhim is critically malnourished and suffering from fungal and bacterial infections having just 6% of T cells which are vital in fighting infection.

**Rimjhim is receiving the best private health care financed by your donations and supported by our amazing team. We will keep you posted on any developments.**





## Tyneside Rotary Club donate 28 water filters.

We would like to thank Tyneside Rotary President Mr Nitin Shukla, and members for raising funds towards water filters. These non-electric devices offer safe drinking water to those living with chronic illness.



Reverse osmosis Kent Gold water filters with a year's supply of replacement filters



Water Borne diseases impact 37.7 million Indians every year. Reverse Osmosis systems have a high effectiveness in removing bacteria and viruses.



Two years ago, Radha Pawar approached WIN for financial help with treatment for kidney abscess caused by Vesicoureteral Reflux (VUR) and repeated urinary tract infections. In constant pain, Radha struggled to secure regular work as a farm labourer. This was exacerbated by taking time off to travel 6 hours by bus from her village in Akola to Nagpur's Government Medical College Hospital where she was receiving treatment. Due to a lack of funds Radha would often sleep in the grounds of the hospital in order to receive blood reports the next day before travelling back home.

Radha married young – an arranged marriage that turned her life into a living hell. For 10 years she was subjected to extreme violence by her husband. In her village the police were reluctant to help or “interfere” in private, domestic affairs. Eventually Radha left her husband, moving into a small, rented room. In some sections of Indian society, a woman who walks away from a marriage is considered at fault for not being able to “adjust” in the way a dutiful wife should.

Radha's decision to leave was supported by WIN with the charity offering legal aid and paying for rent and health care.

Recently the charity offered Radha respite shelter at our new Women's Welfare Centre. Over the last month she has flourished in the safety and companionship at the centre. With improved health Radha has busied herself supporting staff and helping the other residents. It is for this reason that we have offered her the job of assistant caretaker.



## Domestic Violence in India

**According to the latest National Family Health Survey, domestic violence in Indian homes remains an open secret and a pervasive problem, violating a woman's basic human rights. ([www.womensweb.in](http://www.womensweb.in))**

The survey highlights that "...29.3% of married Indian women between the ages of 18-49 years have faced domestic violence/or sexual violence. 31% of pregnant women between the ages of 18-49 have experienced physical violence during any pregnancy." However, activists say that official statistics can often be misleading and don't reflect reality. Only a miniscule number of victims come forward to report abuse due to social conditioning. So only this

number gets represented in official statistics. Most victims are asked to 'adjust' even in such violent settings; some blame it on their bad karma while the rest just see it as something that's par for the course in a patriarchal society.

Even if a woman leaves an abusive marriage, the road to healing is a long one. The physical scars of domestic violence may or may not heal but the psychological effects are long lasting. Depression, anxiety, low self-esteem, post-traumatic stress disorder, suicidal thoughts, alcohol and drug abuse, loss of trust, isolation... It can change one's perspective on life and can become crippling. All those survivors who seem to "be strong and cope" might be only suppressing the trauma and/ or dissociating from it.

*Top left: Radha sewing curtains for WIN's new centre. Top Right & bottom Left: Radha is enjoying being part of the WIN team.*

Remember 17 year old Dikshaw? Alone and infected with drug resistant TB she was facing eviction from her small, rented room. Through WIN's intervention Dikshaw was treated by chest specialists Dr V Gupta and made a full recovery. We relocated her to rented premises close to the charity's head quaters and helped her find employment. Since then, life for Dikshaw has continued to improve with her recently getting married. We wish her well for the future.



(Below) Lado was featured in our July-Sep issue last year. Due to a state level shortage of ARV's she became very unwell. Your donations paid for vital HIV treatment that has greatly improved her health and general quality of life. (Below right): Recent photo of Lado on her birthday.



# Celebrating YOU

## **The Gay and Keith Talbot Trust donated £15,000 in 2022**

In 2000, before the charity was formerly registered, Gay Talbot phoned to offer support. Once registered the charity (then known as START) received its **very first** donation from Gay and Keith Talbot. Since then, they have continued donating to WIN. Last year alone the Gay and Keith Talbot Trust donated an incredible £15,000 towards the charity's operations in Nagpur and Wardha.

Through their remarkable Trust, Gay and Keith Talbot support causes all over the world relating to famine relief, human rights, racial and religious harmony, equality, diversity, and the advancement of health.

***Thank you so much for the years of generosity you have given towards WIN in support of saving and improving the lives of thousands of Indian women.***



## **Deirdre Horsburgh and fellow parishioners have donated over £35,000 to WIN selling cakes, coffee, and cards.**

During the last 14 years a very small group of generous Durham parishioners headed by Mrs Deirdre Horsburgh have astounded us with their almost monthly donations generated by selling hot drinks, homemade cakes, and cards during their regular coffee mornings held at St Godric's Primary School.

Even when COVID struck and the coffee mornings ceased, this dedicated group just kept donating!

***Deirdre, you, and your friends have been a lifeline to WIN and the women we support. We still don't know how you do it, but we remain extremely grateful to you all. A special mention to Sr Michael for introducing Deirdre to WIN and for her years of generosity. And also, to Janet Nichols for the funds raised through the sale of her beautiful handmade cards X***

— *thank you* —