

Faces of Freedom

VISIONS OF HOPE FOR CHILD LABORERS

CHILD LABOR



9603ROR77FN7 Thousands of Pakistani children are illegally held captive and forced to work long, crippling hours on the carpet looms. Older workers sexually abuse many of the children, a quarter of whom are girls aged 14 and under. (Punjab, Pakistan, 1996)



9711ROR0207FN14 Child laborers in Pakistan are forced to work for roughly one-third of an adult wage. Eliminating exploitative child labor in turn improves wages and employment opportunities for skilled adult artisans. (Punjab, Pakistan, 1996)



0026RORIIFN7A Child labor is a crime. Young girls such as this one are often put to work in village loom sheds, home looms or gated factories off-limits to the public. Manufacturing Producers who sign on with GoodWeave agree to give inspectors open access to their weaving sites, wherever they may be. (Punjab, Pakistan, 1996)



9603ROR5IFN34 A 2004 study by the International Labour Organization determined that nearly half of all Pakistani carpet workers are children between the ages of 4 and 14. Many develop illnesses and disabilities from long hours of work crouched in dust-filled rooms. (Punjab, Pakistan, 1996)



9711ROR0207FN11 Carpet weaving requires a hunched sitting posture and repetitive movement of the hands and arms. GoodWeave schools and centers offer children activities and exercise that help speed their physical rehabilitation. (Punjab, Pakistan, 1996)



0706ROR22FN04 Though child labor is most prevalent in hand-knotted rug operations, this underage worker working on a tufted rug is unfortunate proof that children are used for this type of weaving as well. (Uttar Pradesh, India, 2007)



0029ROR38FN24A "Carpet kids" suffer a tragic array of physical trauma, including respiratory illness from inhaling wool fibers, cuts and bruises from sharp tools, and spinal deformities from sitting in cramped positions. (Punjab, Pakistan, 1996)



0029ROR37FN11 Millions of child and adult carpet workers are exploited, working long days with limited breaks. Workers are held responsible for defects and must bear the cost of replacement or repair. (Punjab, Pakistan, 1996)



0026RORI4FN17 At a loom north of Lahore, Pakistan, girls are forced to work 12 hours a day, sometimes seven days a week. In Pakistan a quarter of all carpet weavers are girls under the age of 15. (Punjab, Pakistan, 2000)



9712ROR28FN8A Shaseen was a child weaver who was gang-raped at gunpoint by her owner and his two brothers. Her sister, Naseem, endured the same treatment. Despite repeated threats, Shaseen's mother went to the Bonded Labor Liberation Front for help. Both daughters were eventually rescued. (Punjab, Pakistan, 1996)



4070FN20 Over the last decade, GoodWeave has freed more than 3,000 children from looms and deterred thousands more from entering the workforce. (Uttar Pradesh, India, 2000)

CARPET MANUFACTURING AND INSPECTION



6108FN02 The technique of spinning wool by hand – and sometimes foot – is thousands of years old. The skill and sensitivity of the spinner’s hands shapes the yarn. Handspun wool exposes more of the wool to dye and is more luxurious to the touch. (Kathmandu, Nepal, 2000)



4996FNIA Nearly three out of four Nepali carpet factories are certified under the GoodWeave Foundation inspection and monitoring program. UNICEF studies show that child labor in the rug industry has declined from 11% to 3% since GoodWeave launched in Nepal. (Kathmandu, Nepal, 2000)



3759IFN32 Natural dyeing is an ancient practice, involving careful preparation of color recipes that call for plant materials such as madder root, saffron, walnut and indigo. In Nepal, efforts are underway to preserve these traditional techniques. (Kathmandu, Nepal, 2007)



37602FN30 This cloth sack contains a colorful array of “poms” used to identify wool colors for production. The finest hand-knotted rugs from Nepal are made with wool sourced from Tibetan mountain regions. (Kathmandu, Nepal, 2007)



37520FN10 Bahadure, an inspection supervisor, has worked at GoodWeave for nearly a decade. In addition to rescuing child laborers, GoodWeave inspectors identify children at risk, facilitate their education and prevent them from working on the looms. (Kathmandu, Nepal, 2007)



0707RORI9FN32 This worker stirs a vat of wool in indigo. The first round of dyeing produces a deep, strong color, and subsequent dyeing in the same vat produces lighter, softer colors. (Kathmandu, Nepal, 2007)



37521FN30 Good carpet wool combines softness with strength. The best wool comes from lambs between 8 and 14 months old, particularly those from colder highland regions. (Kathmandu, Nepal, 2007)



37521FN09 Teams of GoodWeave inspectors ensure high standards for working conditions by conducting random, surprise inspections at weaving factories and village-based carpet looms. (Kathmandu, Nepal, 2007)



0029ROR34FN5A After a rug has been clipped, it is washed to remove any dirt collected during the weaving process and to give the pile its particular finish. (Punjab, Pakistan, 2000)



4994FNI16 This GoodWeave-inspected factory, which can produce more than 50 rugs at a time, is one of over 600 carpet weaving factories located in Nepal’s Kathmandu Valley. (Kathmandu, Nepal, 2007)



6172FN23 Carpet washing is an art unto itself. A gentle yet thorough handling ensures the carpet shape is maintained. Rugs are fully saturated with water before applying any soap and are washed with large, stiff-bristled brooms. (Punjab, Pakistan, 2000)



4064FNI13_FFAL A master artisan weaves on a GoodWeave-inspected loom. The average 8’x10’ hand-knotted area rug is comprised of up to a million individual-ly-tied knots. (Bhadohi, India, 2000)

RESCUE, REHABILITATION AND EDUCATION



37607FN01 GoodWeave's daycare and early childhood education centers offer ample opportunities to both study and socialize. (Kathmandu, Nepal, 2007)



4999FN10 Jhaldak Man, age 13, and Jit Bhadur, age 14, used to weave carpets every day. Now they are full-time students. GoodWeave sponsors their education and provides them with food, clothing, shelter, and medical care. (Kathmandu, Nepal, 2000)



5015FN15 This young girl learns to speak English as part of a GoodWeave child labor prevention program. Such programs help break the cycle of enslavement. (Kathmandu, Nepal, 2000)



37606FN20_KC_CROP Chameli and friends play outside the *Hamro Ghar* ("our home") GoodWeave center. Many rescued carpet slaves have never been in a classroom or on a playground before. (Kathmandu, Nepal, 2007)



4987FN2A At this Nepal GoodWeave Foundation rehabilitation center, the day's classes begin with group meditation. (Kathmandu, Nepal, 2000)



5006FN24_FF Playful boys at a GoodWeave-funded daycare center. Daycare centers not only help relieve weavers from the burden of child care, they also help motivate parents to enroll their kids in school. (Kathmandu, Nepal, 2000)



5017FN2I GoodWeave has rescued and provided educational opportunities to over 3,200 children. For many children, speaking with GoodWeave social workers is the first chance they've ever had to shape their own future. (Kathmandu, Nepal, 2000)



37622FN14 Located near a rug-weaving center on the outskirts of Kathmandu, Boudhanath Stupa is the center of the region's Tibetan culture. Stupas are sacred structures containing Buddhist relics; Boudhanath is the largest of its kind in Nepal. (Kathmandu, Nepal, 2007)



37517FN02 Kathmandu's carpet factories are gateways to Bombay's brothels. According to the U.S. State Department, an estimated 12,000 Nepali women and children are trafficked for commercial sexual exploitation in India every single year, and three out of nine survivors were first recruited from carpet factories. (Kathmandu, Nepal, 2007)



6070FN5A In the rug-making capitals of South Asia, the deterrent effect of GoodWeave inspections, coupled with increased educational opportunities, have led to a dramatic reduction in the use of child labor in the carpet industry. (Punjab, Pakistan, 2000)



37515FN04A The carpet factory owner often beat Sunita, who was forced to do domestic work and weave rugs from 4am into the night. GoodWeave rescued Sunita and provided her educational opportunities, restoring her childhood – and her smile. (Kathmandu, Nepal, 2007)



0707ROR47FN14 GoodWeave works to end child labor before it begins by offering daycare for weavers' children. This daycare center in Nepal enables parents to focus on their craft while their kids play and learn in a healthy environment. (Kathmandu, Nepal, 2007)



0020ROR2FN28 Babloo, Chotu Rishi and Raju peek through the loom warp at GoodWeave's Balshraya Center for Bonded Laborers. Former child slaves, they can now choose to learn the craft of carpet weaving or opt for other vocational training to complement formal education. (Bhadohi, India, 2000)



0707ROR05FN14 Following her rescue from the looms by a GoodWeave inspector in 2005, Sunita began to live and study at a GoodWeave rehabilitation center. Now 12, Sunita dreams of becoming a teacher. (Kathmandu, Nepal, 2007)



0706ROR01FN05 At the age of five, Manju was already working in a rug factory. Three years ago, a local Indian civil society organization found and freed Manju from the loom. GoodWeave partners with local human rights groups to rescue, rehabilitate and educate such former child laborers. (Jaipur, India, 2007)



0707ROR45FN28 GoodWeave schools maintain high academic standards, and rescued children are encouraged to continue their education at least through high school. The curriculum includes Nepali, Hindi, math, science, English and various electives. (Kathmandu, Nepal, 2007)



0022RORI1FN33NEG At the age of six, Laxmi helped her mother and two sisters roll woolen thread in a carpet factory in Nepal. Once GoodWeave rescued her, Laxmi flourished as a student. Now 17, she is pursuing a degree in Hotel Management with GoodWeave's continued support. (Kathmandu, Nepal, 2000)



4963FN27_AL More than 60 percent of girls in Uttar Pradesh drop out of school before completing fifth grade, as is the case in many other Indian states. GoodWeave's community-based programs provide free education, including books and uniforms, to girls rescued from carpet work. (Uttar Pradesh, India, 2000)



37596FN33 Out of economic desperation, Sunita's family sold her to a *thekedar* (broker) for the equivalent of \$2.50. She was made to work 18 hours a day as a carpet weaver and domestic servant to pay off the "loan." GoodWeave rescued her in 2005; the student now dreams of teaching Nepali and English. (Kathmandu, Nepal, 2007)



4947FN3 More than 2,000 children in India attend school with GoodWeave's support. Universal primary education is widely recognized as one of the most effective instruments for combating child labor. (Bhadohi, India, 2000)



4991FN14A Keeping in step with Nepali tradition, children sing and dance outside *Hamro Ghar*, a GoodWeave rehabilitation center in Kathmandu. (Kathmandu, Nepal, 2000)