

# GAA India

GIRLS ADVOCACY ALLIANCE

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## WHAT IS THE ISSUE?

Child Marriage and Child Trafficking are two major concerns in India, where approximately 1.5 million girls below 18 are married every year, and the nation ranks 5<sup>th</sup> among 84 countries in terms of human trafficking cases. This leads to sexual, social, and economic exploitation of the young girl where she leads a life filled with abuse and her potential is never realised.

## HOW ARE WE ADDRESSING IT?

Our project focuses on addressing and fighting the rising violence against adolescent girls and young women and increasing their economic their economic participation in vulnerable states of Andhra Pradesh and Telengana through lobby and advocacy. We empower the girl child and the young woman by advocating for prevention of child marriage and child trafficking along with promotion of secondary education and job oriented vocational training.

## HOW DO WE OPERATE?

We work in six districts across Andhra Pradesh and Telangana with six partner organisations implementing the project at the grassroots level; HELP (lead partner in Andhra Pradesh) in Prakasam district and the state headquarters Vijayawada, RAIDS in Kadapa district, HANDS in Anantapur district, SVK (lead partner in Telangana) in the State headquarters Hyderabad and Nagarkurnool district, SCOPE RD in the district of Khammam and FMMSS in Warangal.

We reach out to Community Religious Leaders, Civil Society Organisations, Government & Law Enforcement Agencies and the Private Sector.



## WHAT WE DO

### Youth Advocates

We have trained 30 Youth Advocates in each of the six districts to engage with stakeholders at various levels. They are trained on representing issues of Child Marriage and Child Trafficking faced by women. These youth stand up and raise their voice for secondary education & vocational training.

### Sensitising Religious Leaders

We conduct many sensitisation programmes for religious leaders on the various social and legal implications of child marriages, and as a result convincing the leaders not to solemnise child marriages. We see this as a ripple effect, as the sensitised leaders would further influence their peers.

### Advocating with Civil Society Organisations

We train CSOs on capacity building and help improve their institutional policies so that they can incorporate GAA themes in their programme priorities.

### Advocacy with the Government and Law Enforcement Agencies

We advocate with the Department of Women and Child Development, the Police Department other Government agencies for them to address the gaps in their system, make important policy level changes and implement programmes and acts that fall in line with GAA objectives.

### Lobbying with the Private Sector

We conduct meetings with major corporates to advocate for CSR funding in vocational skill training and secondary education for girls and young women. We also help them formulate CSR initiatives that help combat violence against girls.



## OUR ACHIEVEMENTS

384

religious leaders pledged not to solemnise child marriages

Government Action

Order enforced to set up Anti Human Trafficking Units in all districts

180

youth advocates both boys and girls, represent GAA issues on various platforms

Global Participation

One GAA Youth Advocate represented girl child issues at the Dutch Parliament, Amsterdam

**terre des hommes**   
stops child exploitation

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