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001	Report	Event Closure [pages 2-3, 7]	3	03/20/2006	P6/b6;

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**SAMUELS\_W**

**690548**

PP005-01

**Barcode Scanning Sheet**



Collection Code: **CTRACK**

Staff Name:

Document Date: **3/20/2006**

Correspondent: **MR AMOD KANTH**

Subject/Description: **THANK YOU FOR YOUR WARM GREETING WHEN I  
ARRIVED AT PRAYAS. PHOTOS ENCLOSED NOT SIGNED  
1. AMOD KANTH P030206SC-0485 P030206SC-0622  
P030206SC-0544 P030206SC-0405**

THE WHITE HOUSE

March 21, 2006

Mr. Amod Kanth  
c/o Beth Hogan  
USAID  
U.S. Embassy  
9000 New Delhi Place  
Washington, D.C. 20521-0001

Dear Mr. Kanth,

Thank you for your warm greeting when I arrived at Prayas. Please tell the girls how much I appreciate their enthusiastic welcome. I will long remember their dancing, singing and the lovely flowers.

Thank you especially for showing me the computer laboratory, beauty shop, workshop, and classroom. The positive environment and hum of activity in each area speaks volumes about Prayas.

I admire your hard work to provide education for these young girls who have faced so many hardships and who, thanks to Prayas, now have brighter futures.

With best wishes,

*Lucas Bush*

*Encl: Flores Photos*

~~MAR 31 2006~~

APR 19 2006

**Doty, Joan R.**

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**From:** Richelsoph, David N.  
**Sent:** Monday, March 20, 2006 7:17 PM  
**To:** Doty, Joan R.; Millard, Elisabeth I.  
**Cc:** Marshall, Misty C.  
**Subject:** RE: letter from LWB to Amod Kanth

defer to FLOTUS staff; NSC was not involved with the event so can't verify content

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Doty, Joan R.  
**Sent:** Monday, March 20, 2006 6:01 PM  
**To:** Richelsoph, David N.; Millard, Elisabeth I.  
**Cc:** Marshall, Misty C.  
**Subject:** letter from LWB to Amod Kanth

Please review this letter from Mrs. Bush to the Director General of Police in Itangar, India, and let me know if you recommend any changes.

Thanks.

**EVENT CLOSURE  
VISIT TO PRAYAS  
NEW DELHI, INDIA**

**Thursday, March 2, 2006**

**11:35 am – 12:30 pm**

**Prayas**

**59, Tughlakabad Institutional Area**

**New Delhi, India**

**Lindsey Lineweaver**

FL CORR

MAR 20 2006



3/20  
Jean

**Mr. Amod Kanth, Founder of Prayas and Director General of Police, Itangar, India** Mr. Kanth greeted Mrs. Bush on arrival and was with Mrs. Bush throughout the visit. When Mrs. Bush arrived to Prayas, children were singing and dancing to welcome Mrs. Bush, then Mrs. Bush was presented with flowers. Please mention the warm welcome. Mr. Kanth was so proud to take Mrs. Bush on a tour of the computer lab, where students were busy at work on interactive learning programs, the beauty shop, where students were practicing applying henna, then a workshop, where students were busy at work learning to silk screen. Please thank Mr. Kanth for hosting the visit to Prayas and commend him for his hard work to provide education and to create a positive, uplifting environment to these young girls who have had so many hardships already in their lives.

“Dear Mr. Kanth,”

Mr. Amod Kanth  
c/o Beth Hogan, USAID  
US Embassy  
9000 New Delhi Place  
Washington, DC 20521-9000

**Ms. Nandita Baruah, Regional Anti-Trafficking and Equity Advisor, USAID India**, Ms. Baruah was the moderator of the roundtable discussion. Mrs. Bush participated in a discussion with five students who attend Prayas and two adults who work with the girls. The young girls shared their stories about how they came to Prayas, and shared their hopes and dreams that they believe are achievable, now that they are getting an education and learning skills that will empower them to be independent in society. Please thank Ms. Baruah for moderating the roundtable and highlighting the success stories of these girls. Please commend her for her dedication in USAID and her hard work to stop trafficking and to rehabilitate children who have been trafficked.

“Dear Ms. Baruah,”

c/o Beth Hogan, USAID  
US Embassy  
9000 New Delhi Place  
Washington, DC 20521-9000

## PURPOSE

To highlight a model USG-funded, comprehensive child-focused development organization helping educate, heal and care for India's underserved and vulnerable girls.

## MESSAGE

- Education is vital to children. We want every boy and every girl to be educated. In too many places, girls' education is not a priority, and uneducated girls are vulnerable to being exploited.
- Education gives girls power. At Prayas, girls learn skills they can use to support themselves and their families when they get older, and educated girls are empowered to negotiate their own sexual lives.

## PRESS PLAN

Arrival – Pool Press

Tour of Facility – Pool Press

Roundtable – Spray at Top, Writers Remain Behind

## DRESS

Pant Suit

## SEQUENCE OF EVENTS

11:35 am MRS. BUSH arrives Prayas and proceeds to Front Gate.

Met by: Amod Kanth, *Founder of Prayas and Director General of Police, Itanagar, India*  
Rajib K. Haldar, *Executive Director of Prayas*  
Seema, *Former Prayas Resident, Age 19*  
Shilpa, *Prayas Resident, Age 7*

**Note:** MRS. BUSH will be met at gate by Amod Kanth, *Founder of Prayas*, and will walk approximately 50 feet to front door of school.

**Note:** There will be 30 children performing a welcome song and dance upon arrival.

**Note:** MRS. BUSH will be presented with flowers by Aarti (b)(6) age 16.

11:40 am MRS. BUSH begins participation in Tour.

**Note:** MRS. BUSH will proceed down two flights of stairs.

**Note:** Amod Kanth, *Founder of Prayas*, will lead Tour. During the Tour, MRS. BUSH will visit the following:

- Vocational Studies program

- Computer Lab
- Beauty Shop
- Screenprinting Workshop
- Classroom

12:00 pm MRS. BUSH concludes participation in Tour and proceeds to Recreation Room.

12:05 pm MRS. BUSH begins participation in Informal Discussion.

**Note: Nandita Baruah, USAID India, will moderate Informal Discussion.**

12:30 pm MRS. BUSH concludes participation in Informal Discussion and proceeds to Vehicle.

**Note: Upon departure, MRS. BUSH will participate in a group photo with the children of Prayas.**

**Note: MRS. BUSH will pause to view a brief dance performance by the children on lawn en route to Vehicle.**

## PARTICIPANTS

### Greeters on Arrival

Amod Kanth (Aah-MODE Kah-nth), *Founder of Prayas and Director General of Police, Itangar, India*

Rajib K. Halder (Rah-JEEB Hahl-daar), *Executive Director of Prayas*

Seema, *Former Prayas Resident, Age 19*

Shilpa, *Prayas Resident, Age 7*

Aarti (b)(6) age 16, *presenter of bouquet*

### Attendees

Mrs. Jeannie Mulford, *wife of U.S. Ambassador to India*

### Tour Participants

MRS. BUSH

Amod Kanth (Aah-MODE Kah-nth), *Founder of Prayas and Director General of Police, Itangar, India*

Ms. Arun Grover (Arr-ROON Grow-VEHR), *Director of Juvenile Justice System Vocational Studies Program*

Ms. Kiran Sharma (KEY-rhan Shar-ma), *Computer Lab Instructor*

Mr. Kuldeep Singh (COOL-deep Sing), *Computer Lab Instructor*

Ms. Pushpa (POO-shpa), *Beauty Shop Instructor*

Mr. Anju Kumar (AHN-joo KOO-mar), *Screenprinting Instructor*

Mr. Ashok, *Classroom Teacher*

### Discussion Participants:

Ms. Nandita Baruah (Nan-DEE-tah BAR-oo-AH), *Regional Anti-Trafficking and Equity Advisor, USAID India, MODERATOR*



Ms. Aparna Singh (Ah-par-nah Sing), *Manager of Shelter Home and Crisis Intervention Center, Prayas*

Ms. Deepti Sharma (Dip-tee Shar-MA), *Counselor, Prayas*

Anita, *Age 17*

Karishma (Ka-REESH-ma), *Age 12*

Sartaj (SIR-taj), *Age 12*

Komal (KO-mahl), *Age 13*

Tabbassum (Tah-BA-soom), *Age 17*

Discussion Observers:

Amod Kanth (Aah-MODE Kah-nth), *Founder of Prayas and Director General of Police, Itangar, India*

Rajib K. Haldar (Rah-JEEB Hahl-daar), *Executive Director of Prayas*

Mr. George Duiken, *Mission Director, USAID India*

**BACKGROUND**

Prayas is a USG-funded, comprehensive child-focused development organization helping educate, heal and care for child sex and labor trafficking victims and street children. The organization was established in 1988 as a joint initiative of the Delhi Police, Delhi School of Social Work and a local non governmental organization (NGO).

Starting with 25 children, Prayas now caters to the needs of 50,000 neglected children in the slum areas of Delhi, and states of Gujarat (goojurät') and Bihar (bēhär'), insurgency-affected Assam and the tsunami devastated Andamans. Prayas operates a network of social service organizations including three shelters for children, 110 education centers (traditional school alternatives), 15 vocational training sites, 12 community libraries and a mobile health van.

USAID partners with Prayas to combat trafficking in persons in communities, and implement learning techniques to "bridge" out-of-school children back to formal classroom settings. It implements efforts to complement the Government of India's "Education for All" initiative for universal primary education.

The New Delhi Shelter Home for Girls has a capacity of 60 girls, age 6-18, and is equipped with state-of-the-art facilities. Since 2002, this model home provided shelter to more than 180 girls. The girls are cared for in a nurturing environment and provided food, shelter, counseling, medical care, alternative education, vocational training, ranging from computer training to baking, and mainstreaming into traditional schools. Many girls are returned to their families in far off locales after proper counseling with their parents.

**Prayas is considered a model program across the world with their comprehensive care, training and education programs and services.**

**FUNDING**

By August 2007, USAID and State Department's Office of Combating Trafficking in Persons will have provided a total of more than \$850,000 in direct funding to Prayas over the last five fiscal years (FY03-FY07). The funding has helped provide shelter, medical care and counseling in a stable, supportive environment to help victims recover and rehabilitate. The funding has also

helped rescue minors from brothels and helped mainstream vulnerable children through education and job skills training.

### **NOTES**

- Mr. Amod Kanth, *Founder of Prayas and Director General of Police, Itangar, India*, was recognized in the Department of State 2005 TIP report as a “Hero Acting to End Modern-Day Slavery.”
- MRS. BUSH is giving crayons and kaleidoscope, journals and pens to the girls.

### **ATTACHMENTS**

- Biographies of Greeters/Discussion Participants
- Talking Points
- Trafficking in Persons - India

## BIOGRAPHIES

### GREETERS

#### **Mr. Amod Kanth, Founder of Prayas and Director General of Police, Itanagar, India**

Mr. Kanth is the Director General of Police in Itanagar, Arunachal Pradesh, and has been in the Indian Police Service (IPS) for the last 31 years. Besides his police responsibilities, Amod is the General Secretary and founder of Prayas. Prayas is one of the premier NGOs working with victimized and neglected children, providing assistance to 50,000 children each year in Delhi, Bihar, Gujarat, Assam, and the Andaman and Nicobar islands. Amod has an outstanding record as a professional and proactive police officer in various fields of crime control, law and order, drugs and human trafficking, counter-terrorist operations, and has received Police Medals for Meritorious and Distinguished Service.

*NOTE: Mr. Kanth, was recognized in the Department of State 2005 TIP report as a "Hero Acting to End Modern-Day Slavery."*

#### **Mr. Rajib Haldar, Executive Director, Prayas Institute of Juvenile Justice**

Mr. Haldar has served as Executive Director of the Prayas Institute of Juvenile Justice since 1996. He has a Masters in Social Work from Delhi University's School of Social Work, where he has also served as academic faculty and researcher. Rajib has worked on child rights issues at the regional and national level, has published a number of articles and papers on the subject, and is considered an authority on child rights, human trafficking, child labor and child protection. Along with his work in New Delhi, he is also actively engaged with the rehabilitation of children affected by the tsunami in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

#### **Seema, Former New Delhi Shelter Home for Girls Resident, Age 19**

Seema has been with Prayas for the last three years. She has taken beauty training and other academic courses during this period. Seema was abandoned by her parents at the time of her birth because she was a girl, and was brought up in an institution before being given up for adoption. Seema's adoptive parents severely abused her, making her do all the domestic chores and treating her like a servant. Seema was finally able to escape with the help of Childline (a national helpline for children in distress), and was referred to Prayas. Prayas pursued her case, ultimately getting 100,000 Indian rupees in compensation from her adoptive parents. Seema learned block printing and how to speak English, and is currently at Prayas to meet up with old friends and the staff. Seema would like to lead an independent life and has developed the courage and confidence to do so. She is working as a peer educator to educate communities on how to prevent trafficking and how to become a strong survivor.

#### **Shilpa, New Delhi Shelter Home for Girls Resident, Age 7, Presenter of Bouquet**

Shilpa has been with Prayas for the last seven months and is attending alternative education classes so that she can enter a formal school in the coming academic year (April 2006). Shilpa had a traumatized and difficult childhood, culminating in her father murdering her mother in front of her and her siblings. Her sisters are also at this Prayas facility, while her brothers are staying in the

Prayas boys home. Regular counseling sessions have helped Shilpa deal with her trauma. She would like to be a police officer when she grows up.

**Aarti** (b)(6) age 16

Aarti has been staying at Prayas Bal Greh (independent living home) for last six months. She has previously lived at Prayas Home for Girls, received alternative education and dress designing course for five and half years. She is a child of commercial sex worker who wished her daughter to stay away and lead a decent childhood. She was rescued by Anti-Trafficking Network (ATN) and referred to Prayas.

Presently, she is working in a boutique and has moved to the independent living home. She earns her living and maintains her life independently. She is deaf and dumb, cheerful and caring person. She expresses herself with ease despite the disability.

### **INFORMAL DISCUSSION PARTICIPANTS**

**Ms. Nandita Baruah, Regional Anti-Trafficking and Equity Advisor, USAID India - MODERATOR**

Ms. Baruah has been working with organizations dedicated to combating trafficking in persons for the last 6 years. Aside from her current work at USAID, she has also served at the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation, the UN Development Fund for Women, the UN Development Bank, and the UN International Federation for Cultural Development. She is currently serving as an advisor to the US Embassy New Delhi on women's development issues.

**Ms. Aparna Singh, Manager of Shelter Home and Crisis Intervention Center, Prayas**

Ms. Singh has been working with Prayas for the last two years as Manager of the Shelter Home and Crisis Intervention Centre. She has a Masters in Psychology and has completed her post-graduate diploma in Guidance and Counseling. She is responsible for individual, group and family counseling sessions with women and children who have had difficult backgrounds, including those who have been trafficked. She monitors the day-to-day activities of the home with the help of other staff.

**Ms. Deepti Sharma, Counselor, Prayas**

Ms. Sharma is a professionally trained counselor with a Masters in Psychology. She has been working with Prayas for two years and has a wealth of experience in counseling children who have suffered abuse and neglect or have been trafficking victims.

**Anita** (b)(6) Age 17

Anita has been with Prayas for eight months, and has spent the last four months at the Prayas trafficking victims rehabilitation center. She was the victim of commercial sex trafficking, but now hopes that the victimization that she had faced should not recur again or to happen to any other woman. Anita is associated with the Prayas Rescue Team and has been cooperating with investigators in the hope that her trafficker will be arrested. Anita has grown in confidence since coming to Prayas, and works in the Prayas economic rehabilitation center (run in partnership with

Amul, India's largest dairy product manufacturing company). She is learning to use computers at the Prayas Institute of People's Education, a project of the Indian Government's Ministry of Human Resource Development that is being managed by Prayas.

### **Karishma, Age 12**

Karishma has been with Prayas for the last six months after running away from an abusive step-mother. The Children Assistance Booth run by Prayas at the New Delhi Railway Station rescued Karishma and brought her to the facility. Karishma enrolled in alternative education classes and is taking vocational training in arts and crafts. Trauma care counseling helped Karishma deal with her emotional needs and she is now able to look forward to a new life. She would like to be a doctor when she grows up.

### **Sartaj, Age 12**

Sartaj was a rag picker for five years before coming to Prayas, meaning she and her family supported themselves by sorting through city garbage. She is now enrolled in a formal school and has excelled in her studies. Sartaj has received a scholarship and many certificates in extracurricular activities. She would like to be a doctor when she grows up.

### **Komal, Age 13**

Komal has been with Prayas for the last eight months and is enrolled in alternative education classes and vocational classes in arts and crafts. Her parents separated when she was young, as her father was an alcoholic and abusive of the family. Last year, Komal's mother died after a long illness. Trauma care and counseling helped her deal with negative feelings and emotional insecurity. Komal would like to be a teacher when she grows up.

### **Tabassum, Age 17**

Tabassum has been with Prayas for the last four years. She was abandoned by her father after her mother died. On the streets, Tabassum was physically and sexually abused during her developing years. A local person referred her to Prayas, where she has learned many vocational skills, including screen printing, and is currently attending a beauty training course conducted by an outside institute. Tabassum will be taking her 10th grade examinations soon through the National Open School. Even though badly traumatized, Tabassum has great ambition and high aspirations. She is a cheerful girl but at times becomes very disturbed due to her past. She does not want any child to live an abusive life on the streets.

## Talking Points for Discussion at Prayas – New Dehli, India

- Education is vital to children. We want every boy and every girl to be educated. In too many places, girls' education is not a priority, and uneducated girls are vulnerable to being exploited. But education gives girls power. At Prayas, girls receive basic education including reading and math. Girls learn skills they can use to support themselves and their families when they get older. And girls learn to love and value themselves.
- Each year, more than 600,000 people are victims of international human trafficking. Eighty percent of the victims are female. Fifty percent are children. And millions more men, women, and children are trafficked within their own countries.
- Human trafficking degrades every person who is a part of it, most especially women and girls who are sold as sex slaves. The United States is working with many countries, including India, to put a stop to this barbaric practice.
- Prayas is a development organization that helps educate, heal, and care for child victims of sex and labor trafficking, as well as children who live on the street – the children most at risk of becoming victims of trafficking. Prayas is funded by the people of the United States, and it works in partnership with the Indian government, national and state organizations, and international organizations.
- This shelter in New Dehli has provided food, medicine, education, counseling, and a place to stay for 180 girls since 2002. Many have returned home to their families. The Prayas model has helped 50,000 girls around the world.
- I look forward to speaking with some of the girls who live at Prayas and with the caring adults who have given these girls a more hopeful future.

## TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS – INDIA

### INDIA

As like-minded governments around the world join to abolish modern-day slavery in the 21st century, we encourage the Indian government to show leadership in acting against this human rights crime through more vigorous efforts to liberate the millions of Indians in bonded and forced labor and enslaved in the commercial sex trade. **The world's largest democracy should not also be known for being home to the world's largest number of slaves in the 21st century.**

“No one is fit to be a master and no one deserves to be a slave”

- President George W. Bush, second inaugural address

### BACKGROUND

**India appears to have the largest population of TIP victims in the world, given the magnitude of numbers listed below:**

- Existing NGO estimates of India's forced and bonded labor victims range from **10 to 40 million**.
- Existing NGO estimates of **sex trafficking victims in India** range from **200,000 to 1 million per year**.
- India is a **Tier 2 – Watch List** country in the 2005 Department of State (DOS) Trafficking In Persons (TIP) Report.
- The 2005 TIP Report states: “Numerous studies show that the vast **majority of females in the Indian commercial sex industry are currently victims of sexual servitude** or were originally trafficked into the sex trade.”
- Report further states; “India is also the home to **millions of victims of forced or bonded labor**.”

### Trafficking challenges affecting women and girls in South Asia

South Asian women and girls are susceptible to trafficking for numerous reasons:

- Gender Imbalance/Feticide: Although feticide is illegal in India, it is widespread in certain areas especially those where male children are valued over girls. As a result, in some areas, a high percentage of female fetuses are aborted. This has led to a large gender gap in parts of India that has fueled demand for trafficked girls as brides and sex slaves. Girls are lured with the promise of a job and then sold as a bride in a state without enough young women.
- Gender Discrimination: Particularly among poorer families in India, Nepal, Pakistan, Afghanistan, and Bangladesh parents will keep girls out of school and encourage them to work or assist the family. Parents and community members pressure girls to take job opportunities in other cities or states and send money home. This combination of lack of education/literacy and

pressure to provide family income make girls vulnerable to traffickers (most victims are trafficked from rural to urban areas).

- Dowry: Although paying dowry is illegal in India, it is still widespread. The high cost that parents must pay to marry off their daughters has fueled a technique used widely by some traffickers. They will go into a village and tell parents they are in love with their daughters and are financially stable enough to forego any dowry. Under this scheme, the parents marry off their daughters and the “husbands” take them to a city and sell them into a brothel.

### **Regional TIP information**

#### **South Asia has the largest number of trafficking victims in the world.**

- Trafficking of women and girls for sexual exploitation internally and across the region is a significant problem in India, Bangladesh, Pakistan, Nepal, Sri Lanka, and Afghanistan.
- In addition, millions of men, women and children are in debt bondage in India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Pakistan, Nepal, and Afghanistan and exploited for generations to pay off a loan or debt.
- South Asia is also a source region for hundreds of thousands of women and men who are trafficked to the Middle East for domestic servitude or labor exploitation. The insurgencies and civil conflicts in Nepal and Sri Lanka have led to thousands of children being forcibly conscripted as child soldiers.