

MAY 2024

Sustain



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Reflection

Greetings from the Mary Ward country of Saint-Omer to Liege,

Today 23 pilgrims made the journey by bus, unlike Mary and her companions who possibly did part of it on foot.

The countryside is splendid with spring growth, vibrant canola fields and the occasional village in the distance, complete with a church spire.

Since recent times wind turbines are a significant feature and with the three rotating blades, they provide a fine contrast to ponder.

One tall, straight, immovable, alone and silent church steeple. The wind turbine connected in movement and grace, and providing much needed energy.

The latter invites collaboration and conversation – beautiful qualities of Mary Ward’s desire for leadership and leverage amongst her companions.

Sr Sandra Perrett ibvm



COVER*

International Women’s Day Celebrations, West Bengal, India

*Consent for all imagery of children and young people used in this publication has been received.

ABOUT US

Mary Ward International Australia (MWIA) is a registered charity and is the Australian and global development organisation of the Loreto Sisters. Our Mission is to support the Loreto Sisters and the broader MWIA network as we work with women and communities to transform unjust structures and reduce poverty and oppression, primarily through formal and non-formal education.



Mary Ward International Australia respectfully

acknowledges all Traditional Custodians of the land and waters of Australia. We pay respect to their Elders, past and present, and young leaders of today and the future. Mary Ward International Australia commits itself to the ongoing work of reconciliation with our First Nations families and communities.



Message from the EO

Women leading change

As a member of the broad Loreto community, you already know that a job title doesn't make a leader and that the ability to lead others lies within all of us.

You know that at the heart of leadership lies the ability to listen and learn, to value and build upon what already exists, to persevere and adapt as issues and possible solutions rise to the surface. You may also know that, at times, leadership can be challenging.

This edition of *Sustain* celebrates leadership and showcases past, current, and emerging leaders within our broad Loreto community – from the Venerable to the modern-day Mary Ward, from Australia to Albania.

You will read about Rajmuni, a 'barefoot lawyer' who educates and defends the rights to fair pay and conditions for those working in Darjeeling's tea estates, and asylum seeker Jamie, who mentors and supports women like herself seeking safe refuge in Australia as they forge a new life for themselves and their children.

Their stories as leaders, along with others featured in this edition, serve as powerful reminders of the strength, resilience, and triumphs of women everywhere. Their journeys are testament to what happens when

women have access to support and opportunity.

You'll also discover how the Loreto school community marked this year's International Women's Day, appreciating that the UN's 2024 theme, "Count Her In: Invest in Women. Accelerate Progress," echoed our own proposition that **strong women equal strong communities.**

Your support of Mary Ward International Australia fosters an environment where women can dream big, pursue aspirations, and effect positive community change. In later pages, you'll see how your recent support of women-led community cooperatives has come to life in Timor-Leste. Together, we are building a fairer, more balanced world where everyone thrives.

In 2024, our focus remains clear. With your ongoing support, we'll continue to invest in women for the benefit of all.

I invite you to join us.

Hannah George
*Executive Officer,
Mary Ward International Australia*

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ACCOUNTABILITY & ACCREDITATION

MWIA is a full member of the Australian Council for International Development (ACFID). We are committed and fully adhere to the ACFID Code of Conduct, managing our work with transparency, accountability and integrity. MWIA is an approved organisation under the Overseas Aid Gift Deduction Scheme (OAGDS) and endorsed by the Australian Taxation Office as a Deductible Gift Recipient.





Mary Ward, an inspirational visionary

Mary Ward, founder of the Institute of the Blessed Virgin Mary, emerged as a visionary leader who challenged societal norms when schools were solely for boys and religious life confined to cloisters.

Four centuries ago, amidst widespread discrimination against women and girls, Mary Ward forged a new passage for women - a pathway to empowerment across villages, cities, and nations. In addition to her deep faith and courage, her extraordinary leadership style continues to inspire today.

Born in 1585 in Protestant England, at a time of religious oppression, Mary faced tremendous opposition due to her fierce belief that girls should be educated and women empowered to assume leadership roles in society.

Despite this resistance and inspired by the Jesuit approach to educating boys, she relentlessly pursued establishing schools for girls in which women also had the freedom to teach. While she had many supporters, her detractors were powerful. Cardinals ruthlessly thwarted her repeated attempts to petition the Pope.

A strong vision, belief in collaboration over hierarchy, excellent communication, and good humour characterised Mary's leadership style. She could identify women who shared her vision and had the talent to help realise it. These women became her loyal companions.

Her companions, known as the 'circle of friends', symbolised her inclusive leadership. She saw herself as an equal, sharing power and calling on their diverse strengths and styles. The group was confident that each companion would be heard, respected, and appreciated. They were deeply loyal to her, and she kept them motivated through years of poverty, isolation, and the threat of imprisonment.

Mary could engage with people across all social, political, and religious groups, communicating with well-chosen, powerful words. Even while imprisoned, she broadcasted her messages using laundry paper and lemon juice as invisible ink.

Through her imprisonment and many setbacks, she maintained a sense of humour and encouraged cheerfulness in her companions. Four hundred years later, Mary Ward International Australia honours Mary Ward's legacy by identifying women with the same optimism, spirit of collaboration, communication skills and strong vision, supporting them to become leaders, entrepreneurs, and change-makers in their communities.

Karen Fogarty
Loreto Ministries

A Sister's journey of **inspiration**

Loreto Sister Monica Suchiang, Director of the Kolkata Mary Ward Social Centre, shares her experience participating in the US Government-funded International Visitor Leadership Program alongside NGO leaders worldwide.

“If your actions inspire others to dream more, learn more, do more, and become more, you are a leader.”

These are wise words from John Quincy Adams, an American statesman who served as the sixth President of the United States. Over three weeks in March, I had the privilege of meeting individuals who embodied this sentiment, sparking inspiration in others to pursue excellence and foster positive change.

The program solidified my conviction that leadership is an ongoing learning process driven by the aspiration to create positive change. Motivated by the program and the remarkable individuals I encountered, I am dedicated to embodying the traits of a leader who motivates others to dream, learn, succeed, and grow. Together, we embarked on a transformative journey that undoubtedly will shape our roles as leaders of non-governmental organisations (NGOs) in the future.

Participating in this prestigious US Government initiative proved to be a humbling opportunity to learn from industry experts. Through workshops, meetings, and insightful discussions, I gained invaluable knowledge about effective NGO management practices. This program not only deepened my understanding of non-profit organisations, but also equipped me with fresh perspectives that I can effectively implement in my own work.

The program explored cutting-edge strategies employed by American non-profit organisations, public service entities and advocacy groups. From the corridors of power in Washington DC to the bustling non-profit scene of New York City, we met with government officials, academics and practitioners, gaining firsthand insights into the dynamics of public-private partnerships, leadership models, volunteer engagement strategies, and innovative communication and fundraising techniques.

Exposure to global issues and diverse viewpoints broadened my worldview, enabling me to approach challenges with a more comprehensive, informed perspective. Immersing in the rich tapestry of American society also deepened my appreciation for diversity and inclusivity, emphasising the importance of embracing all individuals, as well as my understanding of the widespread social inequality in the US and the need for well-rounded solutions to these complex challenges.

Sr Monica Suchiang ibvm
Kolkata Mary Ward Social Centre

Sr Monica Suchiang ibvm (pictured left), Brickfields, West Bengal, India



Rajmuni, the barefoot lawyer

The Darjeeling tea states were first planted by the British in the 1800s and continue to operate in the same feudal manner over 150 years later. The estates operate as economic production units and social institutions, controlling all aspects of the lives of those who live and work there. Employees are often deprived of their fundamental rights and entitlements and unaware of the available statutory and legal remedies.

Darjeeling Mary Ward Social Centre's Legal Aid initiative, funded by Mary Ward International Australia since 2023, works to address this power imbalance. It provides vulnerable tea plantation workers access to a network of legal advisors known as 'barefoot lawyers'.

Rajmuni's dedication to justice and her deep commitment to improving the lives of those living in the tea plantations of Darjeeling inspired her to join the MWIA-funded Legal Aid program as a 'barefoot lawyer'.

Living on a tea plantation herself, Rajmuni witnessed firsthand the unjust working conditions experienced by her friends and neighbours, including poor pay, denial of benefits, and in some cases, forced labour. Many of these issues have broader social implications, such as increased vulnerability to family violence, sexual abuse and human trafficking, all of which disproportionately impact women.

The living conditions of tea workers also present significant challenges, with many residing in substandard housing located within the estates where they are employed. These houses typically lack proper sanitation and access to clean water. Exposure to chemicals used on tea plantations poses further health risks to the workers, and poor medical facilities exacerbate these problems. There is little scope for quality education for children; in many cases, they work in the plantations instead of attending school.

WHAT IS A BAREFOOT LAWYER?

While not formally qualified in law, 'barefoot lawyers' are frontline workers who have received training to guide and support community members in legal matters, including worker exploitation, family violence, and human trafficking. When a barefoot lawyer cannot resolve an issue, a qualified lawyer is engaged.

Barefoot lawyers are crucial in bridging the gap between the community and government legal services available to them. They assist community members in navigating the legal system effectively by accompanying them to legal clinics or police stations to access legal advice or lodge formal complaints.

As community leaders, barefoot lawyers educate others about fundamental legal principles and practices and equip them with the skills to actively protect their rights and pursue justice for themselves. These efforts contribute to creating a culture of legal knowledge and accountability within the tea plantations.

Barefoot lawyers also play a vital leadership role in effecting greater social change by advocating for legislative reform, upholding human rights principles, and challenging injustice.

HOW RAJMUNI'S LIFE HAS CHANGED

Becoming a barefoot lawyer has profoundly impacted Rajmuni's sense of self-esteem and purpose in life. As she has immersed herself in this leadership role, Rajmuni's growing confidence in her abilities has given her a sense of fulfillment from helping others know and defend their rights through the legal system.

Since becoming a barefoot lawyer, Rajmuni has learned much about the legal rights of all people in India, which has helped her handle a wide range of issues. Her experience in the role has also given her deeper insight into the legal, social, and economic challenges those living on tea estates face. This empathy has helped her

to advocate more successfully for justice and equality, particularly for women.

Rajmuni has developed strong conflict resolution skills, which have proven effective in addressing many concerns at the local level without the need for escalation to the legal system. This ability to resolve conflict locally has been highly beneficial, as it has led to quicker and more amicable solutions while reducing the burden on formal legal processes.

As a barefoot lawyer, Rajmuni has developed her own extensive rights network. She collaborates with other activists, leaders, community organisers, and legal experts to advocate for change. She continues to develop the strength and perseverance essential to deal with legal problems and has become a role model for her peers and a driving force for positive change.

FUTURE GOALS

As a newly established leader in her community, Rajmuni is committed to gaining a deeper understanding of the challenges and obstacles facing all people in India. To better address these issues, she is actively pursuing a formal education in legal studies, human rights, and social justice. By combining education with her advocacy and community engagement work, Rajmuni can meaningfully improve the lives of marginalised people in her community and contribute to broader social change in India.

Support women in building communities free from poverty and injustice on the back page of this issue.



Kirstin Del Beato

Mary Ward International Australia

Women leading the way towards a more equal future

This year, the Loreto community continued to embody Mary Ward's vision that 'women in time will come to do much' in their International Women's Day celebrations. Throughout March, each school held a range of events and activities that showcased the incredible achievements of current Loreto students and alumnae that personify Mary Ward's values of Justice, Sincerity, Freedom, Verity and Felicity.

LORETO TOORAK

In its centenary year, Loreto Mandeville Hall Toorak launched Women In Time, a digital display of notable Loreto Toorak alumnae. The physical display is a permanent fixture in the Crescent Theatre foyer and was officially opened to commemorate International Women's Day, with the intention of incorporating new alumnae into the display each year. The famous words of Mary Ward inspire the name of the display: "There is no such difference between men and women that women may they not do great things? And I hope in God it may be seen in time to come that women will do much."



LORETO NORMANHURST

Loreto Normanhurst welcomed several alumnae back onto campus to share their remarkable career journeys across a diverse range of industries at their Women of Influence evening. The school also invited alumna Kirsty Robertson, CEO of Caritas Australia and Vice President of Caritas Internationalis, to speak at their assembly in March. These events both celebrated and exemplified how a Loreto education shapes its students to go on and contribute to society and lead the way towards a more equal, unified and resilient future for all.



LORETO BALLARAT

Loreto College Ballarat marked the occasion with an inspiring breakfast where three more incredible alumni were inducted into its Women in Time - Inspiring Alumni initiative: Andrea Dennett (Community Service Leadership), Grace Mulcahy (Young Achiever in STEM), and Margot Search nee Podger (Community Service Leadership). Whether navigating male-dominated industries, helping those in need or contributing to a sustainable future, all three inductees shared their unique message, each referencing values, skills and memories from their time at Loreto. Current student, Bethany Ryan, was also recognised for her gentle leadership, unwavering commitment and genuine compassion for others and received the Student Award.



LORETO KIRRIBILLI

Loreto Kirribilli participated in several inspiring International Women's Day events, including facilitating a Companions in Learning International Women's Day Breakfast with guest speaker Dr Laura Vidal and a lunchtime panel discussion on the UN theme, Count Her In: Invest in Women. Accelerate Progress. There was also an opportunity for School Leaders Emily d'Souza and Sybilla Delaney to accompany Principal Dr Nicole Archard to a breakfast hosted by Catholic Schools NSW, where keynote speaker the Honourable Tanya Plibersek MP shared insights into her years of experience in public life.



LORETO COORPAROO

Students at Loreto College Coorparoo were invited to dress as a woman who inspires them or wear the colours of International Women's Day - purple, green and white - to mark the occasion. In doing so, students brought a gold coin donation to raise money for the Mary Ward International Australia supported solar lantern initiative in India. This meaningful action not only celebrates inspirational women but also supports community-led initiatives globally.



LORETO MARRYATVILLE

Loreto College Marryatville celebrated International Women's Day in several ways, including creating a collaborative mural with purple, green and white handprints, colours that are symbolic of this day. Year 6 and Year 12 students attended an International Women's Day breakfast with journalist Annabel Crabb and Australian Senator and Foreign Affairs Minister, the Honourable Penny Wong. In addition to these activities, Amelia Boulden, a Year 12 student, proposed her Bill to close the gender pay gap at the Team Parliament debate at South Australia's Parliament House. It was an important day that celebrates the strength, resilience and achievements of women and the Loreto College Marryatville community.



This year, our focus at Mary Ward International Australia remains clear. With your continued support, we'll continue to invest in women through projects led by Loreto Sisters and others within the broader Loreto network. Because we firmly believe that strong women lead to strong communities. Together, we are building a fairer, more balanced world where everyone thrives.

Isabella Murphy
Loreto Ministries

Projects on the rise

PIRIWA ENTERPRISE HUB

Balgo, Western Australia

The Piriwa Enterprise Hub is a space for First Nations women living in remote Balgo to build foundational small business and entrepreneurial skills. It fosters well-being and community cohesion, and profits circulate back to cultural activities that strengthen culture and language.

The project aims to support Piriwa's sustainability and long-term success by broadening women's understanding of revenue generation and diversification. It will introduce a new source of income through the sale of creative products made from upcycled clothing donated to the Piriwa Op Shop.

The project will address self-determination, economic exclusion, and enterprise development. Week-long, creative workshops will focus on developing products, including tote bags and earrings, and using painting skills to create unique products. New products will be developed, market-tested, and sold at Piriwa. The leadership team will receive ongoing mentoring to implement the skills learnt at the workshop and work with local partners to re-engage younger women. Piriwa hopes this project will support young women to attend the hub and feel safe to engage in learning opportunities.

The initiative aims to increase the confidence of the Piriwa leadership team as they run community development projects and further develop their skills in project planning, implementation and evaluation.



Human Trafficking & Exploitation within the Filipino Community, Albania

HUMAN TRAFFICKING & EXPLOITATION WITHIN THE FILIPINO COMMUNITY

Albania

Most Filipinos arrive in Albania legally, securing employment as workers in agriculture, factories, domestic service, and tourism. However, some exploitative employers refuse to pay, impose threats, and, in some cases, sell them to sex traffickers. Often, their work or residency permits are not renewed, limiting their work options to the black market, where exploitation is rife. Deportation fears prevent many from seeking help.

Project staff will research the realities of the Filipino community in Albania to deliver evidence-based interventions for trafficked and exploited Filipinos in the country. The data will help establish safety and protective services for those who have been trafficked or exploited. Additional advice, referral, and emergency support services will meet the needs of the community.

The project will develop educational and awareness sessions on human trafficking. Over 500 Filipinos in Albania will also receive a guidebook, including an overview of trafficking and exploitation, safe migration practices based on legal frameworks, services available in Albania, and guidelines for help and support.

This initiative will enable the Filipino community to thrive and work legally in Albania while supporting their families back home. They will understand the risks of human trafficking and access support and protection in Albania. The community will grow to foster justice and freedom for their community.

The project has been specifically designed to meet the needs of the Filipino community in Albania and has been developed with them to address the needs they have identified.



Kolkata Mary Ward Social Centre, West Bengal, India

Kathryn Njamme, Piriwa Op Shop and Enterprise Hub, Balgo WA
Photograph by Sarah Landro, Camera Story

KMWSC TRAINING FACILITY

West Bengal, India

The Kolkata Mary Ward Social Centre (KMWSC) works with marginalised communities in West Bengal delivering programs that promote education, protection, and gender equality.

The programs rely on the timely delivery of training sessions, and suitable training and accommodation facilities are essential as many travel from rural areas outside Kolkata.

While there is no room to expand KMWSC's current office, a nearby Loreto school has offered an unused building needing renovation. Situated on a low-lying piece of ground with poor drainage, the water inside remains stagnant until it dries out. Prone to waterlogging, the area is currently unusable during monsoon season and is a breeding ground for mosquitoes, presenting a risk of infection and disease.

Mary Ward International Australia will support raising the ground level and installing a suitable drainage system at the new site. This renovation will stop water from pooling on the ground and ensure training programs are implemented on time and as designed.

Once the renovation is complete, in-house workshops and training can be delivered year-round. The workshops and training programs help develop the leadership skills of participants, of which 82 per cent are women.

Kaithlyn McNab

Mary Ward International Australia





Women thriving in Timor-Leste, **thanks to you**

Mary Ward International Australia knows that strong women equal strong communities and that investing in women will promote economic growth and employment opportunities.

In Timor-Leste, we are committed to forming community-based partnerships, drawing on discussions with women and their desire to transform their lives, families and communities. Female participation in leadership is critical to transforming unjust systems and structures. The women of Hamelale and HAFUCO are role models to other women and their communities.

Thanks to our supporters, we raised sufficient funds at the end of 2023 to support two women-led cooperatives in Timor-Leste. The following updates are a testament to the results of investing in women for the benefit of all.

HAMELALE

At Hamelale, women are leading the way. The farming co-op in Timor-Leste is proof that strong women equal strong communities. Eleven emerging female leaders formed the small-scale farming cooperative, Hamelale - meaning "through the long grass" - to attain financial independence. The women balance family and household duties with managing a successful poultry farm, food production business and savings scheme.

Typically, women in Timor-Leste face economic constraints due to patriarchal norms, prioritising child-rearing and home duties over employment opportunities and income generation.

MWIA has committed to supporting Hamelale in expanding its business by building a new chicken house. Currently, Hamelale sells chickens to local restaurants and at the local market, as well as making and selling food products such as sweet potato noodles and desserts.

Expanding their enterprise will provide increased support to the women, their families, and the broader community by increasing their poultry production, maximising their wholesale and retail opportunities while enhancing their business skills. Hamelale will continue to lead

their community by example, showcasing the power of resilience, determination and teamwork.

The building is almost complete, with pathways between rooms of the chicken house to be laid. Once finished, additional chickens will be purchased.

HAFUCO

Under the leadership of Maria da Costa Tilman, HAFUCO is an established women-led cooperative that supports women and the broader community in enhancing their quality of life through health, nutrition and financial management training. The group manages a neighbouring farm where they grow products used to prepare nutritious food and produce packaged banana and sweet potato chips for sale in local shops.

HAFUCO (Haburas Futuru Comunidade - "Growing the Future with the Community") had been operating in a small, cluttered space used for administration, cooking and selling products; however it lacked appropriate space for training and meetings.

MWIA had committed to supporting HAFUCO to construct a purpose-built training facility to ensure the group can deliver vital training to the community.

Thanks to our supporters, the training room is now complete. The new building is already operational and training sessions are taking place in the facility.

Women and the community will soon have increased opportunities to learn financial management and small-scale farming skills, expand their understanding of health and nutrition needs (including the importance of breastfeeding), and be equipped with the tools needed to address family violence.

In addition to the range of training that HAFUCO offers, the regular group activities that bring women together prove to be supportive and life-giving to many. The objective is to establish groups to help women and the broader society improve the community's health, economic well-being, and education.

Kaithlyn McNab

Mary Ward International Australia

Refuge forms role model

Fleeing her home country due to threats and violence, Jamie* found herself alone and homeless upon arriving in Sydney. However, with support from MWIA-partner the House of Welcome, Jamie was able to rebuild her life and become a role model for other women.

Mary Ward International Australia provides much-needed funding to the House of Welcome, enabling it to provide secure accommodation and wraparound support to women in particularly vulnerable situations seeking asylum. This assistance prepares them for a self-reliant future, empowering them to have autonomy over their lives.

Through the program, Jamie gained access to essential services like Medicare and legal advice to navigate the protection visa process. These services addressed her immediate needs and allowed Jamie to focus on other aspects of her life, including her desire for economic independence.

Participating in the program played a pivotal role in Jamie's journey by providing her with structured job placements and valuable work experience. Jamie has now secured full-time employment at a school, coordinating student events, graduations, and parent gatherings. Jamie's confidence has grown in leaps and bounds in this role, allowing her to build relationships and develop emerging leadership skills.

Jamie's newfound economic independence has had a transformative impact on her life. "Things are changing for me," she says. Inspired by her mentor and manager at work, she recognises the value of continuing her education to enhance her skills and advance her career. "It's not an easy job, but I love seeing the result of a successful event."

Her desire to further her education in leadership and management demonstrates her determination to continue growing personally and professionally.

Jamie's story highlights the importance of other forms of support for people seeking asylum beyond just providing shelter. It emphasises the need for programs that address healthcare, legal assistance, and employment opportunities to unlock the potential of people like Jamie, allowing them to rebuild their lives and contribute positively to their new communities.

Kirstin Del Beato

Mary Ward International Australia

* Name changed





Fuelling vision with generous support

When I came to Loreto Normanhurst as its first lay Principal in 1994, I had already been the Principal of a large co-educational school. What inspired me to go to Loreto was the spirit of Mary Ward, reflected not only in stories and her writings but in the women who followed - women like Teresa Ball, Gonzaga Barry, and the Loreto Sisters I met and have come to know and respect.

Mary Ward's deep faith nurtured my own. Her passion for girls' education aligned with mine, as did her emphasis on relationships and social justice. These elements guided my work as a school leader, as I aimed to translate Mary Ward's vision and values into a totally different context.

It has been many years since I left Loreto Normanhurst. Still, I am privileged to continue supporting the work of the Loreto Sisters through my role on the Board of Mary Ward International Australia. Our purpose is 'creating just and sustainable change with women, children and communities, primarily through education'.

It is profoundly humbling to work alongside the Sisters and other partners across the world, listening to and learning from women whose external circumstances are often challenging and who have much to teach us.

A recent trip to Timor-Leste brought this home to me. While there is material poverty, the people wholeheartedly celebrate life, family, and connectedness. The women I met there know what they need. Supporting them in achieving their goals is fulfilling, whether it be through the construction of communal laundries to create a social gathering place and eliminate the long walks to wash laundry in a stream, providing seed funding to help a group of local women grow their small business, or funding the building of a simple meeting place where women can share nourishing food and knowledge on early childhood nutrition.

My colleagues on the MWIA Board often hear me say, 'No money, no mission.' Resources enable us to continue the work. I am happy to support MWIA financially as a regular donor and through a bequest to MWIA in my will.

Thank you to the generous donors who already support the work of MWIA. I encourage others to join them. Your support helps us achieve our vision of 'a just world where women share leadership, children thrive, and communities live in harmony with each other and the Earth'.

Dr Leoni Degenhardt AM
Board Chair, Mary Ward International Australia

Support women in building communities free from poverty and injustice

In Darjeeling, India, most tea plantation workers are women living in small houses lacking clean water, proper toilets and electricity. Medical facilities are poor, and child labour often replaces education.

Women are paid scarce wages and mistreated at work. With limited choices, they are vulnerable to violence, abuse and human trafficking.

Rajmuni lives on a tea plantation herself and has witnessed the profound effects of poverty, poor living and working conditions, and unfair treatment of women and children.

Rajmuni’s experiences have strengthened her resolve to improve the lives of her community for the better. She trained to become a ‘barefoot lawyer’ and leads her community in driving positive and sustainable change.

Though not formally qualified in law, ‘barefoot lawyers’ are trained local frontline workers who guide and support community members in legal matters such as worker exploitation, family violence, and human trafficking.

With newfound confidence and knowledge, Rajmuni now resolves conflicts more effectively at the local level, helps community members navigate the legal system, and teaches them about their fundamental rights and the law. **She inspires others to challenge injustice and advocate for legal reforms.**

You can help uplift women like Rajmuni to become leaders and right the wrongs in their communities.

Investing in women is investing in the transformation of entire communities.



\$100
will help **train a female barefoot lawyer** to lead and advocate for justice and law reform



\$500
will help fund **business skills training** for ten women



\$1000
will help train a woman to run **trafficking awareness programs** for other women

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