



2012-13

Children Unite Annual Report



give child domestic
workers a voice

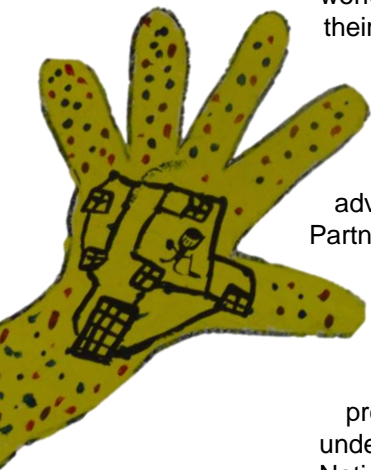
Our Vision

Children Unite is the only international organisation to focus exclusively on child domestic work. We work in partnership with organisations to protect child domestic workers from abuse and exploitation and to promote their rights. We build the capacity of organisations to develop specific services for child domestic workers that are based on their needs. We are building an international community of organisations and individuals who take action and support the campaigns of child domestic workers themselves. Three concepts are important to the way we work:

Partnership: we work in partnership with organisation providing direct services and support to child domestic workers; addressing their abuse and exploitation their lack of education and their isolation

Advocacy: we strive to secure long-term sustainable changes for child domestic workers through advocating for changes that will affect as many children as possible. Our advocacy work underpins the services that our Partners provide to children.

Participation: the views of child domestic workers are at the heart of everything we do. We create opportunities for children to participate in everything from designing a project or producing their own film to undertaking research and lobbying at the United Nations



" They tied me up, poured water all over me and beat me telling to return back the money that they accused me of stealing. I said I haven't stolen the money but they kept on beating and I fainted."

Megha. 14 year old girl

Chair's Report



Stella Atherstone, Chair

The year under review has been challenging. In the current economic climate which has seen a number of small charities absorbed by larger partners or close their doors, Trustees recognised the need to review, evaluate and respond to the uncertainties facing Children Unite. A successful skills assessment of the Board and the acknowledgement that gaining donations and grant funding is ever more difficult have lead to a change of emphasis for the coming year, whilst still remaining true to our charitable objectives.

Children Unite will test an advisory service during 2013-14 in order to deliver our service as widely as possible, with the additional benefit of providing a source of unrestricted income. In addition we have a better understanding of our position in the grant funding arena, and will adjust our methods of accessing this limited pool of resource.



Tulasa's hands, India

“ It all depends on oneself to accept and see them [problems] as challenges, we should be able to prove ourselves and find

ways out of

Prasansa, 16 year old girl

Director's Report



Helen Veitch, Director

During 2012-13 most of my time was spent as lead researcher for the Bamboo Project. I visited Nepal twice over the course of the year and got to know the research team in Nepal and the logistical challenges they faced interviewing child domestic workers. I learned a great deal about partnership working and had to get to grips with how to analyse a deluge of data. There is no doubt that children in this study showed a great capacity for resilience – an ability to bounce back in the face of adversity. Although their challenges were far greater than ours, their example of resilience inspired staff and Board members as we grappled with some significant developmental issues for Children Unite this year.



Due to personal circumstances 2012 has been a challenging year, which resulted in an assessment of Children Unite's operating model and strategic plan. We opened ourselves to innovation and looked at a new approach to achieve our vision. I believe this required courage and resilience. During this process I have been particularly inspired by the stories I heard from children in Nepal and the quote above, from Prasansa, is one I have endeavoured to learn from.

New Trends in Child Domestic Work

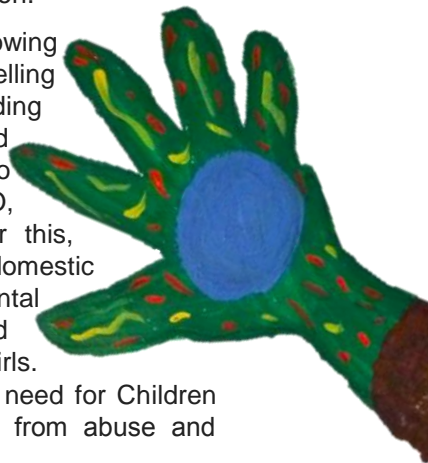


Jonathan Blagbrough, Technical Advisor

During 2012, millions of children around the world, mainly girls, remained in paid or unpaid domestic work in households other than their own. Continuing global and local efforts to ratify and implement the newly activated Domestic Workers Convention ensured a high-level of international interest in the situation of child domestic workers and their need for protection. Austerity and an emerging youth unemployment crisis in many countries also highlighted the need to protect the rights of millions of adolescent domestic workers who, while entitled to work, are left vulnerable to exploitation and abuse by the absence of local social safety net provision.

At a time when global estimates are showing a marked decrease in child labour, it is telling that there has been no corresponding decrease in the numbers of child domestic workers – who are estimated to total more than 17 million worldwide (ILO, 2013). There are several reasons for this, most notably a rising demand for domestic workers, coupled with entrenched parental beliefs that domestic work is ‘safe’ and suitable for their children, especially girls.

As a result there is, more than ever, a need for Children Unite’s work to protect these children from abuse and exploitation.



Activity Report

Advocacy

As part of our SEND your gLOVE campaign to promote ratification of the ILO Domestic Workers Convention, Children Unite launched a 'Reflection and Action Resource Pack' for use by Methodist Women in Britain (MWiB). The pack contains information on child domestic workers, bible studies, hymns & songs, prayers, action ideas and fundraising suggestions. These packs are being used to spark debate and promote action on the issue of child domestic labour at MWiB events across the UK during the course of 2012 and 2013.

During this period Children Unite also joined a UK coalition of NGOs and trade unions campaigning on domestic workers rights and continued efforts to seek UK ratification of the ILO Domestic Workers Convention (2011).

Education packs for primary and secondary schools were launched on Anti-Slavery Day (18 October). These packs were produced in collaboration with Anti-Slavery International and explore the world of child domestic workers. Activity sheets enable students to learn and empathise with children in child domestic work, and encourage children to use their own skills to lobby decision makers to protect child domestic workers around the world from abuse and exploitation.

Deza's hands, the Philippines



“My family is earning money from my work which is helping them to provide for their daily needs. As the eldest child of the family I am also obliged to take care of my family; so enduring these difficulties is okay for me.”

Gita. 16 year old

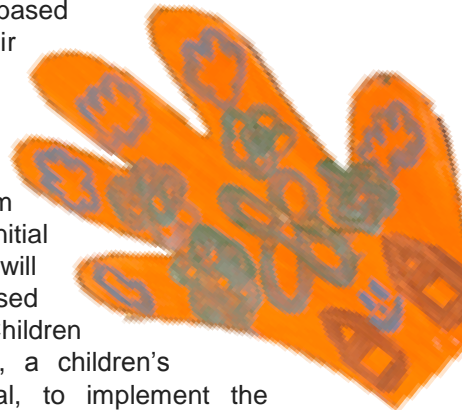
girl

Technical Advice Service

As part of Children Unite's Technical Advice Service, Helen Veitch assisted Anti-Slavery International in documenting, assessing and building capacity on children's participation in a major five-year multi-country project on child domestic workers. In 2012-13 a final learning report was produced and shared with key stakeholders.

Capacity Building and Research

Bamboo Research Project: forty-seven interviews and six focus group discussions were held with a total of 117 child domestic workers during the summer of 2012 as part of a study into children's resilience in Nepal. The research focused on children who had experienced sexual abuse and used innovative and participatory methods whereby children undertook art based activities with researchers to elicit their 'life stories' and 'community maps'. From November to March, the research team, which included two young researchers, analysed the huge amount of data generated from this method – and developed five initial themes of resilience. These themes will be refined, reviewed and analysed further in the forthcoming year. Children Unite is collaborating with CWISH, a children's rights organisation based in Nepal, to implement the research.



Organisational Development

Children Unite made further progress in strengthening its legal, financial and organizational structures during the period. This included development of a reserves policy, reviewing and improving a financial procedures manual and the completion of a risk register. Children Unite also continued to strengthen its online presence, through regular blogging, Facebook, Flickr, on Twitter and via *ChildrenUniteFilms* (YouTube). The website was also expanded and regularly updated during this period.



An externally facilitated governance review was undertaken in September 2012 involving Children Unite's Director and Trustees. This led to a number of important outcomes, including greater clarity of the roles and responsibilities of Board members, and the need to recruit additional Trustees to strengthen Board-level skills, knowledge and contacts for the benefit of the organization. Children Unite's co-founders also reviewed their roles with mentoring support from Trustees.

Tati's hands, Costa Rica

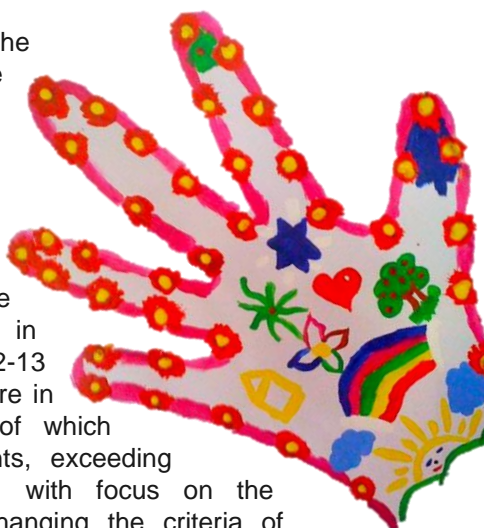
“ These days I don’t get panicked over that incident of rape, I am happy now, and I don’t get insecure about anything. The regular support I’ve had and counselling has helped me recover from my trauma.”

Mahima, 19 year old young woman

Strategic Direction and Accounts

In response to disappointing results in applications to several charitable trusts and other grant makers, an internal review on the operating model for Children Unite was undertaken in preparation for the organisation’s 2013-14 strategy. As a consequence, Children Unite has reduced its operating costs and developed a short-term strategy that focuses on gaining more diverse and sustainable sources of income, notably to develop a technical advice service that will generate unrestricted funding for the year ahead.

The annual accounts reflect the current economic climate, where small charities are finding it ever more difficult to raise income through grant funding. The majority of income for the year under review was raised through donations and fees. Children Unite has also been in the fortunate position where a project funded in 2011-12 was extended into 2012-13 and 2013-14, hence the expenditure in the current year, the majority of which relates to prior year commitments, exceeding income. Trustees are confident, with focus on the Technical Advice Service and changing the criteria of selecting grant funding, Children Unite will continue to deliver during 2013-14.



Accounts

Income and Expenditure for the year ended 31 March 2013

| <u>I & E</u> | 12/13 | 11/12 |
|------------------|------------------------|----------------------|
| Income | | |
| Donations | 5,674 | 3,194 |
| Gift Aid | 774 | 2,125 |
| Fees | 5,600 | 5,233 |
| Grants | | 100,325 |
| Bank Interest | 11 | 26 |
| Sundry | <u>7,090</u> | <u>1,543</u> |
| | 15,099 | 112,446 |
| Expenses | | |
| Project costs | 16,543 | 78,121 |
| Staff Costs | 10,903 | 12,880 |
| Administration | 5,078 | 7,012 |
| Bank Charges | <u>36</u> | <u>39</u> |
| | 32,560 | 98,052 |
| | <u><u>(17,461)</u></u> | <u><u>14,394</u></u> |

Balance Sheet as of 31 March 2013

| <u>Balance Sheet</u> | 12/13 | 11/12 |
|-----------------------------|---------------|---------------|
| Current Assets | 13,136 | 37,215 |
| Cash at Bank | 12,726 | 28,077 |
| Cash held in Curr - | | 5,720 |
| Debtors | 224 | 3,418 |
| Gift Aid | 150 | 2,125 |
| HMRC Refund | 74 | |
| Sundry Debtors | | 1,293 |
| Prepayments | 186 | |
| Training | 186 | |
| Current Liabilities | 112 | 6,730 |
| Accruals | 112 | 6,730 |
| Restricted | | 5,506 |
| Unrestricted | 112 | 1,224 |
| Net Current Assets | 13,024 | 30,485 |
| Funds | | |
| Reserves | 30,485 | 6,091 |
| Surplus/(Deficit) | (17,461) | 4,394 |
| | 13,024 | 30,485 |
| Funds | | |
| Restricted | 11,533 | 27,296 |
| Unrestricted | 1,491 | 1,892 |

For the year ended 31 March 2013 the company was entitled to exemption from audit under Section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small Director's responsibilities:

The members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its accounts for the year in question in accordance with Section 478

The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting records and the

These accounts have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies regime.

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The story of my hands

The paintings of hands used throughout this report are from art and story workshops held with children in eight countries. As hands are very important to domestic workers, children were asked to paint the 'story of my hands' to explain how they used their hands in different ways for their work in domestic service and, in particular, to express how they feel about their past life as child domestic worker (left hand) and their future life, their dreams and aspirations (right hand).

The voices of children

All the quotes used in this report are from life story interviews held with child domestic workers as part of the bamboo study Children Unite is implementing with our partners in Nepal.

Children Unite is a company limited by guarantee:
07032485

Children Unite is a registered UK charity: 1136614
33 Skipworth Road
London E9 7JR

Founders: Helen Veitch and Jonathan Blagbrough
Company Secretary: Helen Veitch

Non-share holding Directors:

Stella Atherstone
Mariela Gonzalez
Susi Koch
Randini Wanduragala



give child domestic
workers a voice

Join the conversation:

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Contact us:

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