

Educational Programs

Educational Assistance

Sudhanthra works to educate a new generation by equipping them with academic qualifications. Ensuring these students receive a quality education allows them to move past their victimization and regain hope for the future. Students are supported through tuition scholarships through school and often all the way through college. But what this program offers is far more than simply financial assistance for schooling. Children and their families stay closely connected to the People's Watch network for support through counseling, mentoring and a sense of community. Each year Sudhanthra supports an average of 400 students working through various points in their education. People's Watch and the Sudhanthra program are so proud of the many students they have seen overcome adversity to succeed in a number of fields, graduating with degrees in social work, law, teaching,

nursing, engineering and more! Many have even gone on to take up work in the human rights field and supporting other survivors.

Sangamam Summer Camp

In order to allow these children recreational time to just enjoy being a child, Sudhanthra runs an annual summer camp called *Sangamam*, meaning "coming together". The camp provides children with a place to share, learn and grow within a safe and supportive community. The ten day camp is available free of charge to child survivors of torture and human rights violations. While at the camp the children participate in arts and craft activities, yoga, computer education, social awareness, sports, karate, story telling, learning about self confidence, learning about rights to equality, and various other life skills. The camp takes children from various places, and different backgrounds and unites them under one roof, as one community. Together, these children can be empowered with the strength to overcome their past oppression and flourish anew.

Meet Our Students

In 2008, 395 children benefitted from our educational programmes, including Malaisamy and Selvi.

Malaisamy, now 27 yrs old, has been a recipient of educational assistance through People's Watch since his 8th standard. Malaisamy's father was killed in police custody and his mother is a torture survivor. With educational assistance from Sudhanthra he has been able to complete his law degree, graduating first in his class with honours. Mr. Malaisamy is currently working as a lawyer in Trichy and recently completed his masters of law.



When **Selvi** was in fifth standard her father was tortured and killed by police officers. After his death Selvi, her mother and her younger sister were taken in to police custody and tortured to keep them quiet. The educational assistance program has been providing Selvi with educational support for the past 9 years. Selvi is currently in her second year of university and is taking her Bachelors in Sociology and Psychology.

All of our programs are funded through the donations of caring individuals like yourselves. We need your support to make sure this year we can support even more children in need!

What can having an Education mean for Child Victims?

A vast number of children are affected by the rampant human rights violations plaguing India today. Whether they are victims themselves or witness the victimization of a loved one, this trauma can have a lasting effect on their lives. Their suffering can be compounded by the loss of the family's main source of income, which may prevent children from being able to attend school. When children are unable to go to school not only do they lose their right to education but also their childhood. Experiencing victimization also puts children at an increased risk of addictions. Education is fundamental to the healing process. It serves as a beacon of normalcy allowing children to just be children and restoring their sense of childhood. Education can get children on the right track and allow them to overcome adversity. With your help Sudhanthra will be able to expand this program to provide a larger number of children in need with the tools to succeed.

Please Contact *Cynthia Tiphagne*, Director of Sudhanthra, at People's Watch to pledge your support today!

Email: cynthia@pwn.org

Donations can be made via Bank Transfer or DD in favour of "CENTRE FOR PROMOTION OF SOCIAL CONCERNS"

India Bank Transfer:

SB—001801000003031

IFS Code no: IOBA0000018

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People's Watch

Help Provide a Child Victim of a Human Rights Violation Receive an Education



SUDHANTHRA

Rehabilitation Centre for Victims of Domestic Violence and Torture

Programmes Run By Sudhanthra

Shelter for Women Escaping Domestic Violence

Sudhanthra was originally founded in 1995 as an initiative to help women in distress, by providing counselling, legal support, and short term shelter. In 2000 when it merged itself with People's Watch these services were expanded to treat both the physical and mental trauma faced by victims of violence. Victims now have access to occupational therapy, physiotherapy, vocational training, legal support, and psychological counselling.



Rehabilitation Centre for Torture Victims

While Sudhanthra was initially intended to be a women's shelter, it is now a rehabilitation centre, available to all victims of violence and torture. Sudhanthra runs two rehabilitation centers, one in Madurai, and one in Mettur. Medical treatment, counseling, legal services, physiotherapy and socioeconomic assistance is available to the victims. The rehabilitation centre in Mettur also provides an Economic Development

Program to supplement the livelihoods of victims who are left unable to take up regular jobs. Victim support groups have been established in an effort to build a culture of resilience and help empower victims.

Summer Camps For Children of Victims



One of the goals of Sudhanthra is to bring a sense of normalcy back into the lives of victims and their families. This is why every summer Sudhanthra runs a camp called *Sangamam* for children affected by violence and torture. The ten day camp is free of charge and offers arts and craft activities, yoga, computer education, social awareness, sports, karate, story telling, learning about self confidence, learning about rights to equality and more. The camp takes children from various places, and different backgrounds and unites them under one roof. *Sangamam* strives to give these children back a piece of their childhood that torture and violence took away. The camp is not there to give these children a place to run away from their past but rather empowers them with the strength to overcome it.



Educational Assistance for Children of Victims

Violence and torture can cause more than just physical and mental hardship. Suffering is often compounded by the loss of the main breadwinner of the family, which may prevent children from being able to attend school.

This is why Sudhanthra and People's Watch have stepped up to provide educational assistance to 378 children of victims. When children are unable to go to school not only do they lose their right to education but also their childhood. Sudhanthra works to educate a new generation by equipping them with academic qualification in various fields including social work, teaching, nursing, law, and more.



The Helpline

The Helpline is the entry point for all victims and their families into People's Watch. Victims seeking legal help, guidance or counselling can contact a 24 hour phone service, or contact the helpline in person or by mail. On average the helpline receives more than 700 cases per year. These victims are assisted by the professionals in the Helpline Unit either by in person legal counselling, legal counselling by reply letter, representation before officials,

sending complaints, referring cases to the Rehabilitation Centre, forwarding the cases to the Human Rights Monitoring Unit, the Human Rights Intervention Unit, and/or arranging for family counselling/mediation. The objective of the Helpline and the Sudhanthra programme is to demonstrate to victims of human rights violations, to the perpetrators and to the larger society, that victims can be empowered and resume a dignified life with safe housing, a decent means of livelihood, health and education.

What You Can Do To Help

Making these programmes available year after year is extremely costly. They would not be possible without the generous support of our sponsors.

You can help ensure the continued availability of Sudhanthra's programmes by pledging a monthly contribution of any amount.



Please Contact *Cynthia Tiphagne*, Director of Sudhanthra, at People's Watch to pledge your support today!

Email: cynthia@pwn.org

Donations can be made via Bank Transfer or DD in favour of "CENTRE FOR PROMOTION OF SOCIAL CONCERNS" payable at Madurai.

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People's Watch

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www.pwn.org

You can also contribute by referring family, friends, neighbours, and all victims of various forms of violence to our Helpline.

24 Hour Helpline Telephone:

+91 9994368523

Email: helpline@pwn.org

SUDHANTHRA
Rehabilitation
Centre for Victims
of Domestic
Violence and
Torture



A Program Unit of
People's Watch

Needs Your
Support!