

Faces of Freedom

VISIONS OF HOPE FOR CHILD LABORERS

PHOTOS PRINTED ON TORINO CANVAS

Child Labor



9711ROR0203FN3I Many child weavers in South Asia are sold into debt slavery. When these carpet children make mistakes, they are beaten and their debt increases, making it virtually impossible to escape their bondage. (Punjab, Pakistan, 1996)



0706ROR22FN04 Though child labor is most prevalent in the hand-knotted rug industry, this underage worker making a tufted rug is unfortunate proof that children are used for this type of weaving. (Uttar Pradesh, India, 2007)



0026ROR14FN17 At a loom north of Lahore, Pakistan, girls are forced to work 12 hours a day, sometimes seven days a week. In Pakistan, a quarter of all carpet weavers are girls under the age of 15. (Punjab, Pakistan, 2000)



9603ROR77FN7 "Carpet kids" suffer a tragic array of physical trauma, including respiratory illness from inhaling wool fibers, cuts and bruises from sharp tools, and spinal deformities from sitting in cramped positions. (Punjab, Pakistan, 1996)



9712ROR28FN8A Through its rug certification program, RugMark has freed more than 3,600 children from the looms and deterred thousands more from entering the workforce. Shaseen, pictured here with her mother, is a former child weaver rescued by RugMark. (Punjab, Pakistan, 1996)

Carpet Manufacturing and Inspections



6110FN1I Adult weavers, who take great pride in their work, often paint their nails or wear clothing to match the rug on the loom, as with this GoodWeave certified rug. (Kathmandu, Nepal, 2000)



4064FN13_FFAL A master artisan works on a GoodWeave-inspected loom. The average 8'x10' hand-knotted area rug is comprised of up to a million individually-tied knots. (Bhadohi, India, 2000)



6172FN23 Carpet washing is an art unto itself. A gentle yet thorough handling ensures the carpet shape is maintained. Rugs are fully saturated with water before applying any soap and are washed with large, stiff-bristled brooms. (Punjab, Pakistan, 2000)



37520FN10 Bahadure is an inspection supervisor for the GoodWeave certification program. In addition to rescuing child laborers, GoodWeave inspectors identify children at risk, facilitate their education and prevent them from working on the looms. (Kathmandu, Nepal, 2007)



37521FN30 Good carpet wool combines softness with strength. The best wool comes from lambs between 8 and 14 months old, particularly those from colder highland regions. (Kathmandu, Nepal, 2007)



4994FN16 This GoodWeave-inspected factory, which can produce more than 50 rugs at a time, is one of over 600 carpet weaving factories located in Nepal's Kathmandu Valley. (Kathmandu, Nepal, 2007)



4996FNIA Nearly three out of four carpet factories in Nepal are certified under the GoodWeave inspection and monitoring program. UNICEF studies show that child labor in the rug industry has declined from 11 percent to 3 percent since RugMark began its Nepal certification program in 1995. (Kathmandu, Nepal, 2000)

Rescue, Rehabilitation and Education



6070FN5A In the rug-making capitals of South Asia, the deterrent effect of GoodWeave inspections, coupled with increased educational opportunities, has led to a dramatic reduction in the use of child labor in the carpet industry. (Punjab, Pakistan, 2000)



0020ROR2FN28 Babloo, Chotu Rishi and Raju peek through the loom warp at GoodWeave's Balshraya Center for Bonded Laborers. Former child workers, they can now choose to learn the craft of carpet weaving or opt for other vocational training to complement formal education. (Bhadohi, India, 2000)



4999FN10 Jhaldak Man, age 13, and Jit Bhadur, age 14, used to weave carpets every day. Now they are full-time students. Funds from the GoodWeave certification program sponsor their education and provide them with food, clothing, shelter, and medical care. (Kathmandu, Nepal, 2000)



5006FN24_FF Playful boys at a GoodWeave-funded daycare center. Daycare centers not only help relieve weavers from the burden of child care, they also help motivate parents to enroll their kids in school. (Kathmandu, Nepal, 2000)



4987FN2A At this GoodWeave rehabilitation center, the day's classes begin with group meditation. (Kathmandu, Nepal, 2000)



37622FN14 Located near a rug-weaving center on the outskirts of Kathmandu, Boudhanath Stupa is the center of the region's Tibetan culture. Stupas are sacred structures containing Buddhist relics; Boudhanath is the largest of its kind in Nepal. (Kathmandu, Nepal, 2007)



37606FN20_KC_CROP Chameli and friends play outside the *Hamro Ghar* ("our home") GoodWeave rehabilitation center. Many rescued carpet workers have never been in a classroom or on a playground before. (Kathmandu, Nepal, 2007)



5014FN23 Orphaned at the age of 10, Raj Kumar was forced to endure long hours at a Kathmandu carpet factory. Rescued two years later, Raj was sent to study at a GoodWeave rehabilitation center. He returned to his village once he reached the legal working age. (Kathmandu, Nepal, 2000)



37515FN04A The carpet factory owner often beat Sunita, who was forced to do domestic work and weave rugs from 4am into the night. RugMark rescued Sunita and provided her educational opportunities, restoring her childhood—and her smile. (Kathmandu, Nepal, 2007)



37596FN33 Out of economic desperation, Sunita's family sold her to a *thekedar* (broker) for the equivalent of \$2.50. She was made to work 18 hours a day as a carpet weaver and domestic servant to pay off the "loan." RugMark rescued her in 2005; a student now, she dreams of teaching Nepali and English. (Kathmandu, Nepal, 2007)



499IFN14A Keeping in step with Nepali tradition, children sing and dance outside *Hamro Ghar*, a GoodWeave rehabilitation center in Kathmandu. (Kathmandu, Nepal, 2000)



5015FN15 This young girl learns to speak English as part of a GoodWeave child labor prevention program. Such programs help break the cycle of enslavement. (Kathmandu, Nepal, 2000)



4963FN27_AL More than 60 percent of girls in Uttar Pradesh drop out of school before completing fifth grade, as is the case in many other Indian states. Community-based programs made possible through the GoodWeave certification provide free education, along with books and uniforms, to girls rescued from carpet work. (Uttar Pradesh, India, 2000)



0707ROR05FNI4 Following her rescue from the looms in 2005, Sunita began to live and study at a GoodWeave rehabilitation center. Today, Sunita dreams of becoming a teacher. (Kathmandu, Nepal, 2007)



37607FN01 GoodWeave daycare and early childhood education centers offer ample opportunities to both study and socialize. (Kathmandu, Nepal, 2007)