



At the end of 2016, we're celebrating some small victories and big leaps made through the power of dialogue and negotiation. 916 women volunteers from 86 hotspots of child harm across Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Maharashtra, Bengal, Odisha and Rajasthan are keeping 75000 children SAFE - free from child marriage/trafficking, hazardous work, exploitation and abuse.

FREE TO GO TO SCHOOL

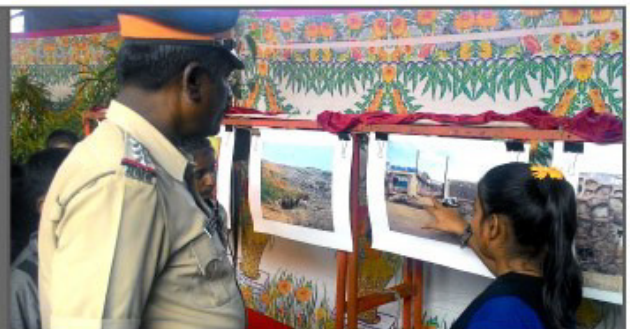
These three children and 32 more like them are finally going to be in a classroom where they belong. Free from back breaking work in a brick kiln in Shahpur, Bihar. Across hotspots Aangan's PACT women volunteers have freed 1628 children from isolation and exploitation to get them into school.



FIGHTING CHILD MARRIAGE SLOWLY BUT SURELY:

12390 girls in Shakti girl safety networks are prioritising financial independence and rehearsing negotiation to delay child marriage. Together, PACT women and Shakti girls have averted 75 planned child marriages, linked 365 girls to government programs. 10955 girls are currently in school, resisting pressure to drop out and marry.

MUMBAI POLICE AND 130 SHAKTI ADOLESCENT GIRLS AND CHAURAHA NETWORK OF BOYS talk about unsafe situations, times and spaces. The beginning of an important trust building dialogue, it will lead to early reporting on missing children, child marriage/trafficking or harassment.



STATE AUTHORITIES ARE LISTENING!

310 women volunteers collected data on 19000 families, and it was worth it! Just a small sample of this straight-from-the-ground data has state authorities listening! In 2017, PACT women volunteers will work in close partnership with the Women and Child Development/Home Department to ensure hotspots become safe spots. More on that next month, next year!