



I am an

INFORMED MOTHER



THE INFORMED MOTHER CREED

Good Mothers are a life source for their families. They know how to stay informed, speak up at the right time, and help others make good decisions to keep the family and village safe. They are wise, and strong and caring and cannot be replaced.



I know am a life source for my family and village. Just like my family cannot live without water, they need me to nurture them. Just as they can get sick from bad water, they can be harmed if I don't have good information about how to look after their wellbeing. Water, like mothers, is sometimes taken for granted but without us our families wouldn't survive.



I know how to protect my daughter. Just like a clay pot that leaves the oven too early and is not fully baked will fall apart when water is put in it, my daughter's life can be ruined if she is forced into a job or a marriage before she is ready. I will make sure my daughter is completely mature, educated and ready before she leaves my house.



I am a PeaceMaker for my home. I know that I and every person in my house has the right to stay safe from harm, abuse, violence and exploitation. Home should be a peaceful shelter, including me. I will teach my children how they should be treated and how to treat others.



I know my daughter is priceless (you cannot put a price tag on her) and I will not let anyone buy her. My daughter is a gift from God, she is valuable and I will not accept anyone who offers money for her marriage (dowry), or anyone who says they will give her a job in the city and send money home. I will invest in the prosperity of my daughters future by giving her an education instead.



I will stay well informed for my family and speak out to keep them safe and healthy. I know that silence is poison when it keeps bad things a secret. When something concerns me or my family I will listen and speak up. Good words spoken to protect others are like valuable pearls.

AN INFORMED MOTHER MUST KNOW

Domestic Violence

Abuse against married women is wrong and against the Indian law. Abuse can include:

Physical - Causing physical pain or harm to the body including slapping, hitting, pushing, kicking.

Emotional/Verbal - Causing grief using words and actions, taunts and emotional blackmail.

Sexual - Rape, forcing to view pornographic material, any act of sexual nature to humiliate or degrade or violate her dignity; child sexual abuse.

Economic - Demand for dowry, selling or pawning away of her Stridhan, not providing basic necessities to family.

Child Sexual Abuse

Abuse of children is not only against Indian law, but can completely destroy the life of the child. It is a mental and physical torture. Sexual abuse is any act against a child of a sexual nature and includes touching a child in private areas, kissing the face or body of the child, looking at the child when he/she is not dressed. It can happen to boys and girls.

Child Labour

Child labour is requiring or forcing a child (below 18 years) to work, especially when they should be in school. It is against the law to make a child work when she should be in school.

Child Marriage

It is wrong and against the law to get children married before they are ready. Legally girls cannot be married before 18 years of age and boys before 21 years of age. Girls who get married too early are much more likely to face abuse by their husbands, to get sick during pregnancy and child birth, and to raise unhealthy children. They are more likely to die during child birth. Waiting until their bodies and minds are ready will mean they, their children and families live healthier and happier lives.

Dowry

It is illegal to offer to give or to receive any compensation or gift for the marriage of a girl.

TRAFFICKING

What it looks like:

Someone who is likable and seems trustworthy will come to your village to talk about opportunities in the city. They will say that a good job, marriage offer, education opportunity or something nice is waiting in the city. They will say that it is safe, and that if you send your daughter she can send money back home to support her family. This person can be someone who is familiar/known to you, your family or to a friend. They usually come to the village and a family during a difficult season when families are most likely to need or want new opportunities.

What really happens:

When these girls are taken to the city they are treated as slaves. They are starved, abused, beaten and tortured, and locked up to be raped (abused) by men. They never get a good job, and they don't send money home, and most of the time their families never hear from them again.

Be an Informed Mother! Be on Red Alert!

An Informed Mother knows what to look out for, and how to protect her daughter and village.

- Be informed on how to protect your daughter!
- If anyone comes to your village offering jobs, marriage, education or a better life in the city for your daughter or children be very wary of them! This is what bad people do to steal your daughters!

- If a girl has gone or been taken to the city and you are afraid for her or haven't heard from her, call our helpline!
- If you are suspicious that someone is a trafficker, or if you are worried about a girl (your daughter or someone else's) who has gone to the city then call our helpline!



OPERATION
RED ALERT



RED ALERT HELPLINE

1800 419 8588

IF YOU NEED HELP, SOMEONE TO TALK TO OR TO PROVIDE YOU INFORMATION ON STAYING SAFE, CALL OUR HELPLINE FOR FREE.

www.myrights.mobi:

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