

PATH-BREAKING IMPACT

We are nearing the tipping point in India's fight against child marriage and trafficking. The PICKET framework has delivered measurable results.

April 2023 – December 2025

500,000+ Children Provided with Legal Support



4,60,060

Child Marriages Prevented



1,22,516

Children Rescued From Trafficking



84,099

Prosecutions in cases of Child Trafficking



Over **75,000**

online child sexual abuse cases were addressed by assisting law enforcement agencies



Over **60,000**

Cases of Child Sexual Abuse Supported With Mental Health Support

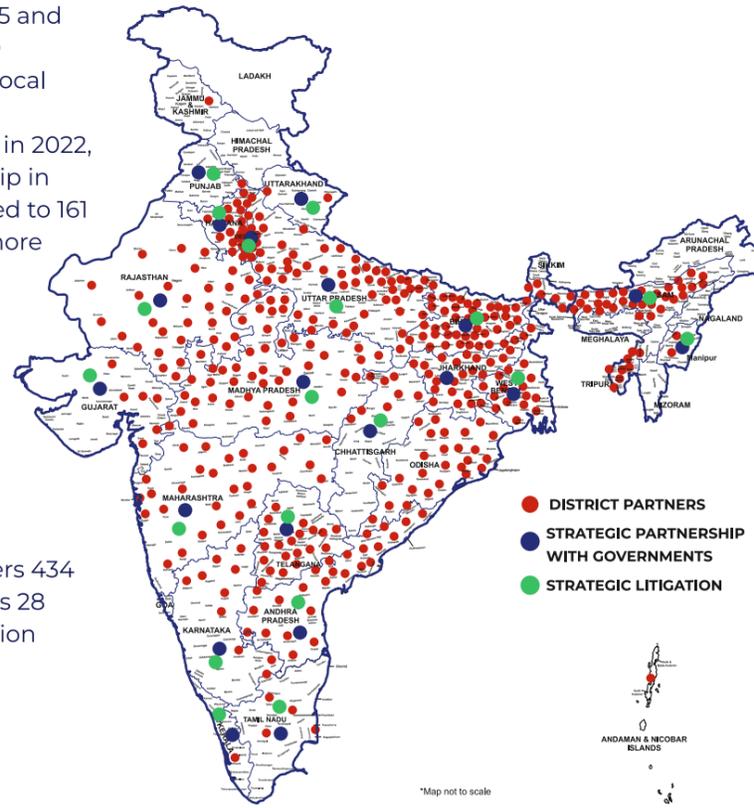
In 2024, in association with JRC, the government of India officially launched the National Campaign to End Child Marriage. The fight against child marriage went global with the launch of Child Marriage Free Nepal and Child Marriage Free World.

Landmark judgments in the Supreme Court of India in 2024

- Mandatory appointment of support persons in all cases of child sexual abuse.
- Downloading, storing, or viewing child sexual exploitative and abuse material an offense under the POCSO Act, with no requirement to prove intent to transmit. Recommendation to create a comprehensive health and sex education program for children.
- India's child marriage laws must be enforced using a prevention, protection and prosecution model, as advocated by JRC; recommendation for the Prohibition of Child Marriage Act, 2006 to be amended to make betrothal of children illegal.

OUR REACH

Starting with 5 and growing to 30 national and local grassroots organisations in 2022, the partnership in India expanded to 161 in 2023 and more than 200 in 2024, targeting districts with high prevalence of child exploitation. In India, JRC currently covers 434 districts across 28 states and Union territories.



Today, JRC has expanded to Nepal, Kenya and the US, and we have begun to work with national and local partners in each country.



JUST RIGHTS
FOR CHILDREN

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JUST RIGHTS
FOR CHILDREN



ABOUT US

Just Rights for Children (JRC) is building the world's largest civil society network to ensure the law protects children and prosecutes crimes against them, including child marriage, trafficking and sexual abuse.

Working in India, Nepal, Kenya, and the US, JRC aims to create an ecosystem that prevents violence against children through legal interventions and community engagement.

JRC founder Bhuwan Ribhu has spent over two decades reshaping child protection from a social concern into a criminal justice issue. He brought civil society groups together with a common goal: break the cycle of delayed justice, prevent crimes and ensure survivors receive timely justice.

By aligning law enforcement, courts, communities and survivor support, JRC makes the system work as one against crimes on children.



FROM INDIA TO THE WORLD

OUR WORK

We break new ground for child protection every day by:

-  Enforcing child protection laws to ensure each case is registered, heard in court and perpetrators are prosecuted.
-  Identifying child traffickers, stopping trafficking as it happens and rescuing children with law enforcement agencies.
-  Providing victims rehabilitative counselling, access to statutory compensation and recovery of back wages for child labourers.
-  Using technology to track online child trafficking, sexual abuse and exploitation and securing evidence.
-  Preventing child marriage, sexual abuse and trafficking through community engagement, training of police and child protection staff.
-  Engaging survivors to lead interventions to protect children from exploitation.
-  Strengthening child protection laws and systems through public interest litigation (PIL) and advocacy.

OUR STRATEGY

To eliminate all forms of violence against children, especially girls, we have categorised the issues into four groups.

Abuse of Children at Home and in the Community	Abuse of Children in Commercial Settings	Abuse of Children under Culturally Sanctioned Practices	Abuse of Children in Digital Space
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Through PICKET, a systematic, focused and intensive intervention model, we address the root causes of these heinous crimes.

-  **P**olicy intervention for prevention, protection, prosecution and rehabilitation.
-  **I**nvestment in infrastructure and institutional framework to ensure access to justice for every child victim.
-  **C**apacity building, convergence of services, collaboration of stakeholders, and communication in real-time for action against crime.
-  **K**nowledge and awareness among children, parents, law enforcement agencies and institutions to make informed decisions and drive behaviour change in society.
-  **E**conomics of the crime understood and addressed, ecosystem level response and free, quality, education for every child until 18.
-  **T**echnology for change, deterrence, monitoring and time-bound justice delivery.

IMPACT



460,060

Child marriages stopped and prevented



21,04,288

Families, individuals and children linked with sponsorship programs and other social welfare schemes



688,643

Children enrolled in school

(DATA FROM APRIL 2023 – DECEMBER 2025)

The fight against child marriage has gained global momentum, with the expansion of the campaign into Child Marriage Free Nepal and Child Marriage Free World in 2024.

Today, what started as a grassroots efforts has grown into an unstoppable global movement, reaching 30 countries.

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Child marriage is child rape.”

- BHUWAN RIBHU



**ENDING
CHILD
MARRIAGE
IN INDIA**



In India, 3 girls are pushed into **marriage every minute**.

Globally, an estimated **640 million girls and women** alive today were married in childhood. Each year, **12 million girls marry** before 18—one girl every three seconds, according to the United Nations.

These numbers aren't just statistics—they represented young girls losing their childhoods. However, with awareness, education, policy reforms, and stronger law enforcement, India is emerging as a global leader in the fight against child marriage.

Just Rights for Children (JRC) is playing a pivotal role in transforming child marriage from a widespread but buried issue into a national priority for change.

JRC'S NATIONWIDE CAMPAIGN: A MOVEMENT BEGINS

In 2022, a mission was born to attain a tipping point to end child marriage in India by 2030.

This campaign, Child Marriage Free India led by JRC and run by its partners, focuses on high-prevalence districts with child marriage rates above the national average of 23.3%, expanding nationwide. It combines awareness, sensitisation, and legal interventions to prevent and stop child marriages.

Over the years, JRC has redefined the fight against this culturally sanctioned crime, however, 2024 marked a turning point, as JRC became instrumental in driving systemic changes that are poised to eradicate this crime organically. Today, the campaign has gone global.

STORY OF SUCCESS

April-May 2024: Turning the Tide

Akshaya Tritiya¹: A sacred day turned tragic for thousands of children forced into marriage. But this time (on May 10), JRC vowed to rewrite the story.

April 29: A plea was sent to child rights commissions, police, and government officials urging them to prevent child marriages during Akshaya Tritiya.

May 1: Filed an urgent petition in the Rajasthan High Court, demanding immediate intervention to save lives.

1. Akshaya Tritiya, or Akha Teej, is one of the most auspicious days for marriage for Hindus and Jains because of its cultural and religious significance, including child marriage.

May 2:

- The High Court delivered a historic judgment, holding village leaders - panchs and sarpanchs (members of village councils) accountable for preventing these crimes, setting a precedent.



July 2024: Prosecution curbs child marriages

- A survey by JRC partner India Child Protection revealed a heartening shift:
 - **81% reduction in child marriages** across 20 districts of Assam over three years.
 - **98% of village leaders acknowledged** that strict law enforcement had reshaped attitudes and strengthened communities' resolve.



October 18, 2024: A Landmark Supreme Court Judgment

- The Supreme Court of India issued a monumental decision, as a result of the petition filed on **9th Nov 2017** by Society for Enlightenment and Voluntary Action (SEVA), JRC partner.
- **Judgement echoed PICKET:** Prevention, Protection, and Prosecution became the pillars to end child marriage. Validated the strategies outlined by JRC's founder, Bhuwan Ribhu, in his book 'When Children Have Children.'



November 27, 2024: A New Dawn—Bal Vivah Mukht Bharat

The Ministry of Women and Child Development, Government of India, unveiled the Bal Vivah Mukht Bharat Campaign, an ambitious nationwide campaign to eradicate child marriage by 2030. The government's decisive actions and pledge-based strategy mark a tipping point in the fight against child marriage, affirming JRC's vision and efforts with official support.



December 31, 2024: Launch of Child Marriage Free Nepal

Inspired by Bal Vivah Mukht Bharat campaign, JRC International Nepal partner BASE and the Govt. of Nepal launched CMFN campaign under the leadership of Prime Minister K P Sharma Oli.

The Bigger Fight: Tackling Case Backlogs

In September 2024, India Child Protection, a JRC partner, released the report Fast Tracking Justice to advocate for increased support for Fast-Track Special Courts (FTSCs) to ensure that all cases are disposed of within the same year they are filed.

Fast-Track Special Courts (FTSCs)

In 2023, Fast-Track Special Courts (FTSCs) resolved 76,319 cases with a 94% disposal rate, and JRC has been instrumental in this.

In 2025, FTSC's disposal rate became 109%.

To truly deliver justice, India must act swiftly

Integrate 600 additional ePOCSO courts into FTSC scheme

IMPACT

Over **60,000** cases of CSA supported
(including mental health support)

(DATA FROM APRIL 2023 – DECEMBER 2025)

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The biggest violation of rights is in the denial of justice sheltered under the pretense of the rule of law.”

- BHUWAN RIBHU



**ENDING
CHILD SEXUAL
ABUSE IN INDIA**

Every hour in India, **7 children** fall victim to **sexual crimes**, with 4 reporting **rape**.



In 2022, **268,038 Child sexual abuse (CSA)** cases were under trial in India. Just **3% resulted in conviction**.

As of December 2022, **239,188 CSA cases** were pending trial in Indian courts.

The December 2023 Justice Awaits report by India Child Protection, a Just Rights for Children (JRC) partner, estimated it would take 9 years to clear this backlog if no new cases are added.

CHANGING THE TREND

Child sexual abuse is a grave violation of children's rights, often under-reported in India. JRC is providing legal, psychological, and rehabilitation support to survivors, driving systemic reforms, and empowering families to rebuild their lives. In 2024, JRC achieved a milestone by driving transformative changes in laws, policies, and institutional frameworks to strengthen child protection and justice systems.



STORY OF SUCCESS



November 2021 – April 2022: A Wake-up call for all

- **November 7, 2021:** Gudia* was brutally raped by two men.
- **April 22, 2022:** She was kidnapped, taken to Bhopal, and detained for three days, where four men repeatedly raped her.
- **April 26, 2022:** All the four accused ran away leaving the minor girl near a police station.
- **April 27, 2022:** A police officer at the station, a protector she sought refuge with, also raped her.



May – September 2022: JRC fighting for justice

Gudia's parents struggled to even report the case until JRC took up the fight. Through relentless efforts, JRC turned Gudia's case into a powerful symbol of hope:

- **May 3-4, 2022:** An FIR was filed, and all accused were arrested.
- **September 2022:** Gudia was granted INR 7,00,000 in compensation. Courts ordered the deployment of para-legal volunteers and sensitive judicial officers to prevent such tragedies.



2023: Setting the Precedent

- **March 2, 2023:** The police officer who betrayed Gudia was granted bail, a devastating blow.
- **1st August 2023:** The Hon'ble Supreme Court ensured she could resume her education safely, enrolling her in a government residential school in Jhansi.
- **18th August 2023:** The Hon'ble Supreme Court passed a momentous judgement mandating the appointment of Support Persons in all the cases under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, ensuring victims receive care, guidance, and protection during their fight for justice.
- **October 9, 2023:** The Supreme Court directed the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) to create national guidelines for Support Persons, setting a precedent for comprehensive victim care.



2024: Justice Delivered

May 3, 2024: In a landmark victory, the Supreme Court overturned the Police Officer's bail and ordered his immediate surrender. Justice had finally prevailed for Gudia, sending a powerful message that no perpetrator would escape accountability.

* Name changed to protect the identity of the child

IMPACT



1,22,516
children rescued
from trafficking



84,099
prosecutions in cases of
child trafficking

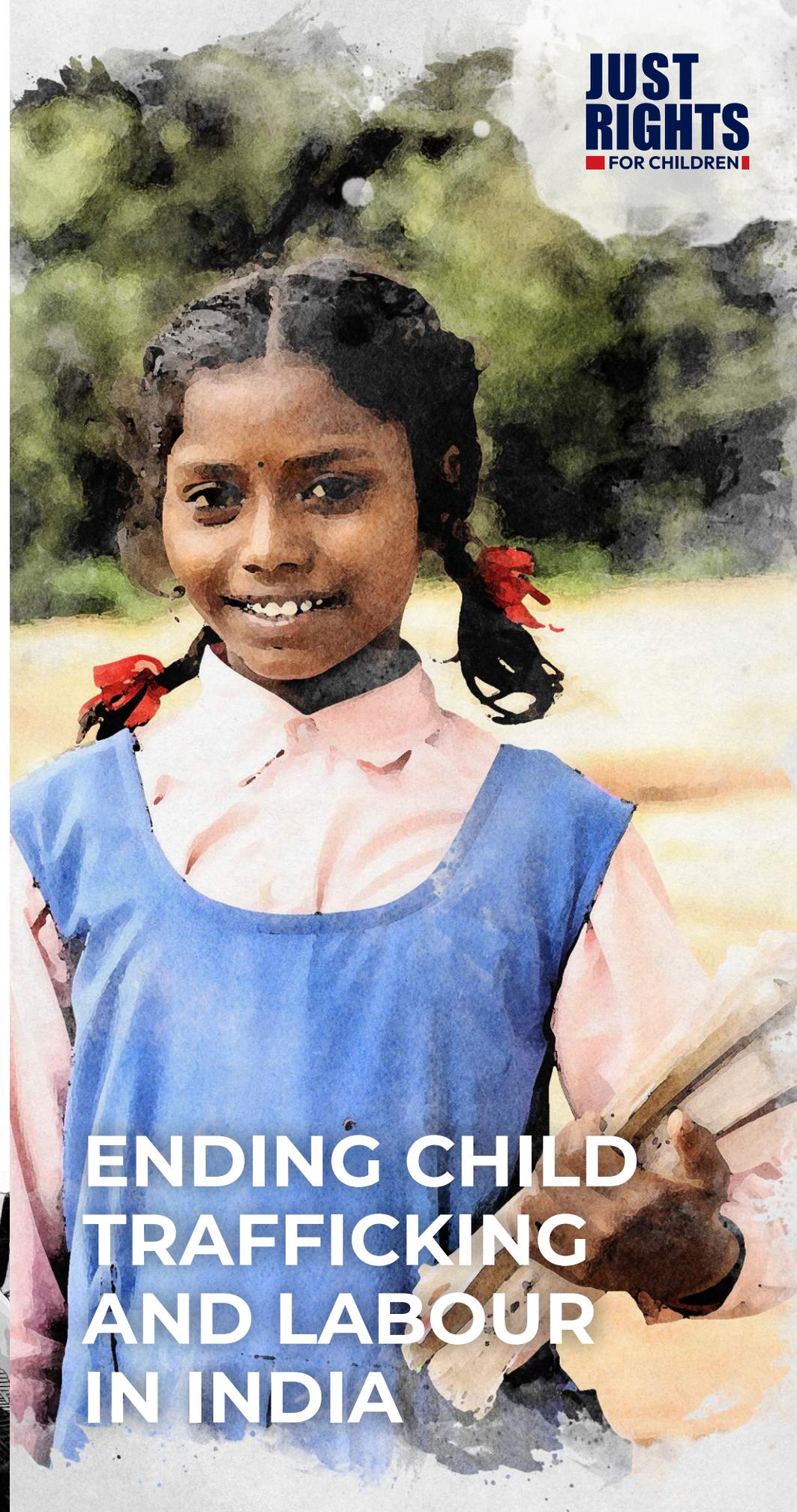
The U.S. State Department's TIP report shows that in 2023, there were 18,774 global prosecutions of human traffickers. During the same period, 16,084 prosecutions were launched by JRC partners, in India itself.

(DATA FROM APRIL 2023 – DECEMBER 2025)

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- BHUWAN RIBHU



**JUST
RIGHTS**
FOR CHILDREN

**ENDING CHILD
TRAFFICKING
AND LABOUR
IN INDIA**

In India, **10 children go missing every hour**, many falling into trafficking networks.



Every day, 8 are trafficked, and 3 are forced into labour.



Child trafficking is a severe human rights violation, driven by organised crime, economic power, and patriarchy. It leads to sexual abuse, slavery, and exploitation, with children often trafficked for marriage or forced into cheap labour and sexual exploitation due to their vulnerability.

■ BREAKING THE CHAINS

Just Rights for Children (JRC) is leading the fight against child trafficking by rescuing and rehabilitating victims of labour, exploitation, and sexual abuse. JRC drives systemic change through policy advocacy, prosecuting traffickers, and providing legal support for victims' compensation. By addressing trafficking head-on, JRC is breaking the cycle of exploitation and working toward a future where every child is safe and free.



■ STORY OF CHANGE



February 28, 2019: Rescued from Darkness

Several bonded labourers were freed from a brick kiln in Shahjahanpur, Uttar Pradesh, where they had been trafficked by an unregistered contractor from Bihar.



May 14, 2022: A Bold Step toward Justice

A petition was filed in the Supreme Court, seeking compensation for the injustice endured by them.



August 1, 2022: JRC Bolsters the Fight

JRC filed an impleadment application, and submitted data on **7,063 rescued children**, revealing:

- **84%** had not received back wages.
- **90%** had not received immediate financial assistance.



August 29, 2024: The Plight of 11,057 Rescued Children

JRC filed another application highlighting that **11,057 children** rescued from bonded labour (2017–2024) had not received their statutory benefits:

- **97.7%** lacked back wages.
- **91%** were without Release Certificates—crucial proof of their bondage.
- **95%** had not received immediate financial relief.



August 30, 2024: The Court Takes Action

The Supreme Court issued notices to the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC), the Union of India, and six states—Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Delhi, Rajasthan, Haryana, and Maharashtra—demanding accountability and immediate action.



November 21, 2024: A Momentous Order

The Supreme Court instructed the Ministry of Labour and Employment (MOLE) to collaborate with states and union territories on a unified strategy to combat inter-state trafficking of bonded labourers, including minors and ensure immediate financial assistance and rehabilitation to prevent re-trafficking.

The order marks a transformative step in ending bonded labour and safeguarding rescued children from re-trafficking.

IMPACT

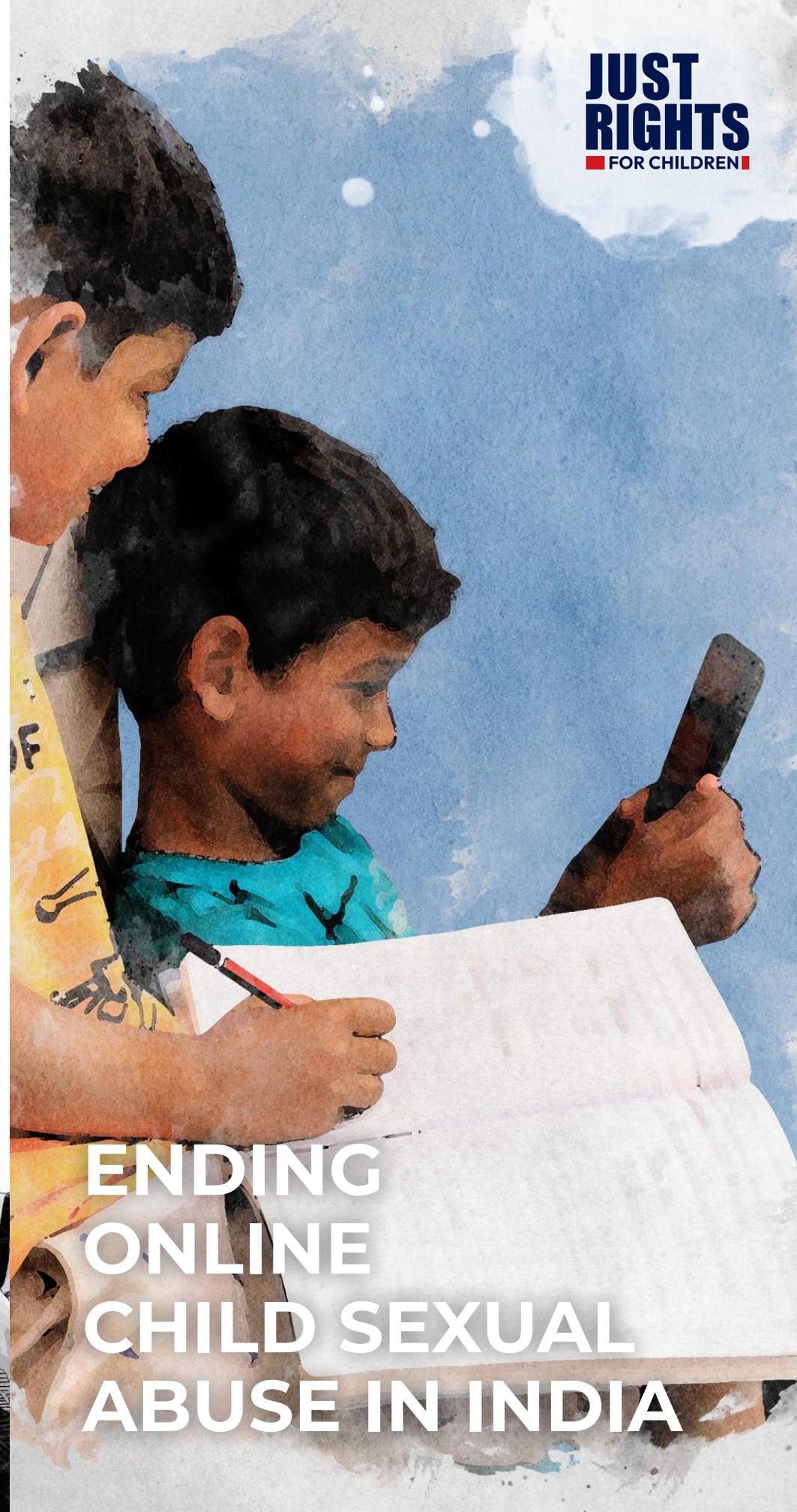
Over **75,000** online CSEAM cases were addressed by assisting law enforcement agencies.

(DATA FROM APRIL 2023 – DECEMBER 2025)

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It is time that the fundamental right to justice for our children transcends borders—both visible and invisible.”

- BHUWAN RIBHU



**JUST
RIGHTS**
FOR CHILDREN

**ENDING
ONLINE
CHILD SEXUAL
ABUSE IN INDIA**

- **1,861 children were registered as victims of online sexual abuse in India in 2022.**
- The National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC) 'CyberTipline 2022 Report' stated **5.6 million cases** of Child Sexual Exploitative and Abuse Material (CSEAM) uploaded from India, making the country a global hotspot for this crime.

Online CSEAM is a severe crime that traps victims in a cycle of exploitation, with their suffering preserved digitally. The lack of standardised detection, prosecution, and challenges in identifying and rehabilitating victims call for global collaboration and unified strategies to tackle this issue.

■ CHANGING THE COURSE OF TIME

Just Rights for Children (JRC) partners work on the ground, with the government, and alongside victims to prevent, protect, and rehabilitate children from online sexual abuse. This year, JRC secured a landmark judgment to combat online child sexual abuse, shifting laws and societal perceptions. By exposing the reality of CSEAM, JRC forced society to confront the devastating impact of this horrific crime on children's dignity and rights. We provide technological, strategic and human resources support to police and other law enforcement agencies to combat CSEAM.



■ STORY OF SUCCESS



📅 2020–2024: The Case That Shook the System

- **January 29, 2020:** A 28-year-old man from Chennai was arrested for possessing over 100 pornographic videos, including 2 child abuse videos, after being flagged by the NCMEC to India's NCRB.
- **January 11, 2024:** The Madras High Court ruled that merely downloading or storing CSEAM was not a crime, sparking anger and fears of normalising such acts.
- **February 22, 2024:** Outraged by the judgment, JRC challenged it in the Supreme Court, arguing that possession fuels demand and perpetuates child exploitation. JRC emphasized that storing CSEAM can lead to its widespread proliferation, endangering society as a whole.



📅 September 23, 2024: A Landmark Judgment

JRC fought relentlessly and as a result, the Supreme Court overturned the earlier ruling, delivering a historic judgment that marked a turning point in child protection:

- **Downloading, storing, or viewing CSEAM** is now a criminal offense under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, with no intent to transmit required for prosecution.
- **Terminology Change:** The Court replaced the term "child pornography" with "Child Sexual Exploitative and Abuse Material (CSEAM)," recognising the severity of the crime and the need for accurate language.
- **Accountability:** Placed strict responsibilities on social media intermediaries to comply with the Indian law.
- **Recommendations:**
 - Amend POCSO to reflect this terminology shift.
 - Develop a national health and sex education program to build awareness and protect children from abuse.

■ RIPPLE EFFECT

Just one day after the ruling, Odisha announced the creation of a dedicated task force to investigate and prosecute cases of CSEAM.

This Supreme Court ruling is a turning point for child protection, marking India's shift from being a hub for online exploitation to a global leader in combating it. With JRC's efforts, this judgment sets a legal precedent and offers hope for a future where every child can grow up safe, respected, and free from fear.