THE LIGHT OF A SAFE VILLAGE

RED ALERT COMIC NO.1
MEET OUR HEROES

EVERY HERO FIGHTS FOR JUSTICE.
EVERY HERO FIGHTS FOR SOMEONE ELSE.
EVERY HERO FIGHTS TO KEEP THEIR HOME PLACE SAFE AND VILLAIN FREE.
THESE ARE THE HEROES OF THE SAFE VILLAGE.

VIJAI
THE GOOD FATHER
Vijai's name means "victorious".
He is The Good Father.
The Good Father is victorious over anything or anyone that would threaten his family and village.
He knows how to detect a lie and influence others to make the best decisions!

JAYA
THE INFORMED MOTHER
Jaya's name means "victory".
She is the Informed Mother.
Jaya's deepest desire is for peace and harmony for her family for her village.
She knows that knowledge and information is what can give her loved ones victory over every problem!

RANI
THE GUARDIAN GIRL
Rani's name means "Queen".
She is the Guardian Girl.
She may look like just a familiar school girl, but she is so much more!
She is on a mission to stay alert to be a voice for help to keep girls safe!

RAHUL
THE COOL BOY (HATKE LADKA)
Rahul's name means "the conqueror".
He is the Cool Boy.
Rahul is curious. He is fun. He is always one step ahead.
Other boys can't influence him, he is the influencer. He conquers fear, pressure, and problems. He fights for freedom.
Hear! Hear!
A miracle!
A story!
In the most beautiful Village!

DHOOM! DHOOM! DHOOM!

Jaya, look,
look your daughter!
She’s sitting
on a buffalo!
What is she doing?

O my god, not again. This father and daughter are always on a mission to change things!

Do you know
in this village? The Sun shines at night? Comet! Comet! One and All!

Which village?

What? Isn’t a miracle? Where?

The Village? That village. Our beautiful village! So all of you better come!

Suresh? Mukesh? All of you come together! Bring your sister Pinky also!

But Pinky has gone to Delhi!
You know it has been 3 months since they sent Rupa to the city. They did not get a single paisa! And in 3 months not one phone call! There are horrible stories about what happens to these girls. They did not know, they were fooled! Now they have lost their daughter! Do you hear me?

What happened Vijai? Where are you going? What is this procession? Is everything Ok?

Arre Bhai, We were making an important announcement! And we were crossing Hari's House. His son told us that he has sent Pinky to Delhi!
Your daughter is going to the city?
What work will she do?
What is she going to eat?
She will not go to school, anymore?
And who will send you the money?

Uh-uh, I don't know the answer to all these questions! He said he would get Pinky a job. He said, everything will be fine and she will send money. He was a nice big man from the city.

What?
You don't know?
Then who knows?
Pinky left home to make money for her family. But the man who took her had an evil plan. Her family and she were fooled!

Harl, we must act quickly. Bad things happen to the girls who are taken to the city for work. We must find Pinky to make sure she is not being abused by men. We must warn others also to protect their daughters!

Vijal, can you help me? I want to bring Pinky back.

There are thousands of stories from villages around us. How the girls are locked up. Beaten up and they are not given any food. Then they are raped! And God knows what!

We must act now. No one's daughter should go missing! We must inform others before it runs the life of other families!

Finky, are you safe? I must do something. This should not happen to girls! I must help! Be a Guardian to other girls!

Yes! Let's all go to the city. And bring her back! We can bring them all back.

What is your next move?
HEROES’ LESSONS

- Knowledge and information is like light in the darkness. It helps you see things clearly, exposing the truth.
- A Good Father knows that good information can come from listening to other’s, including his wife and educated daughter.
- Fear can be our worst enemy. If we stay alert, speak up, and get help, then we can keep our village safe!
- You must be bold, and speak out and get help when you think something might be wrong! Good people can be hurt by bad things if we stay silent.
- Bad people can come disguised as good, nice, successful people to take girls to the city. In the city these girls are not treated well, they are abused!
- Keeping a Safe Village safe requires everyone to be a hero.
- Everyone can do something. YOU can be a hero! Be on Red Alert!
Bhavani was born in a poor family in Pileru, Chittoor District of Andhra Pradesh. Instead of going to school, Bhavani worked with her parents, who were landless laborers. In her family there were 11 people; 6 sisters and 3 brothers.

One day when Bhavani was only 12 years old, her aunty insisted that she get married to a man named Amar who worked in Delhi. Her parents agreed. “Even though I was young, I felt very happy to get married as they gave my parents lot of money and took care of the marriage expenses.” After the marriage, Bhavani, Amar and the aunty left for Delhi.

When she reached New Delhi Railway Station, Amar asked Bhavani to stay with her cousin until he made arrangements for family accommodation. Her cousin’s house turned out to be a brothel on G B Road the red light area in New Delhi. This is when Bhavani realized she and her family had been fooled, and by her own aunty! Bhavani’s nightmare began the very next day when she was forced to be abused by a strange man who was a customer of the brothel. She then came to know that she had been sold by her aunty to this brothel for a sum of Rs.45,000/-.

Speaking to other girls at the brothel she realized that her ‘husband’ had “married” 12 times in that 1 year, fooling 12 other girls and their families! When Bhavani tried to fight the abuse and say no to the bad men in the brothel, she was beaten and starved. After 7 days of struggle Bhavani could not fight any longer. Every day since then, she has been raped by over 20 men a day.

After five abortions and too many sicknesses to count, Bhavani died at the age of 17 years from HIV.
Every 10 minutes a girl gets sold into the Indian flesh trade.

A girl in an Indian brothel is raped 20 times or more in a day.

Only 1% of the girls are rescued.

The average age of a trafficked child in India is 12 years old, with some as young as 7.
RED ALERT HELPLINE
18004198588

If you need help, someone to talk to or to provide you information on staying safe, call our helpline for free.
This project is the result of over 18 months of rigorous in field and partnership-based research including the commissioning of first-of-its-kind research by the “behavioral architects™” of Final Mile on the compulsions of male decision making on both the demand and supply side of the trafficking of girls and women. This Comic booklet is the “leave behind” portion of a Training Toolkit designed to educate all stakeholders in rural areas to effectively prevent the trafficking of girls and women for sexual exploitation.

The Toolkit will be delivered in villages through 2-day trainings in partnership with My Hope.

Credits
OPERATION RED ALERT TEAM // Producer, Director, Co-Writer and Trafficking Prevention Specialist
FINAL MILE CONSULTING // Behavioral Architect™ Consultants
MARK SAMUEL // Guru
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ALLEN GANTA // Graphic Designer and Layout Specialist
MY HOPE // Rural Activation Partner

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