



ANNUAL GALA

TAMARA



Reflections

A GOLDEN EVENING

SEPTEMBER 27TH, 2024

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**Restoring Autonomy to
Sex Trafficking Survivors And
Preventing Future Victimization**

TAARA

TRAFFICKING AWARENESS, ADVOCACY & RESTORING AUTONOMY

TAARA equips survivors of sex trafficking with skills, education, and job placement for empowered, independent lives.

Our prevention campaigns and curriculum raise awareness to protect vulnerable populations from future victimization.

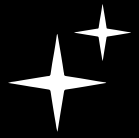


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TAARA
TRAFFICKING AWARENESS, ADVOCACY & RESTORING AUTONOMY



A Note From The Chair

Dear Esteemed Guests,

Welcome to this year's TAARA Gala. As Chair of the Board of Trustees, it's an honor to share the journey we've embarked on—one that brings protection, empowerment, and hope to vulnerable children and survivors.

TAARA's mission is about more than protecting children; it's about equipping them with the tools and confidence to navigate life's dangers. Tonight, we gather as a community of people who believe in the power of change.

Our Proactive Approach: We combat child exploitation and trafficking by intervening early, not waiting for harm to happen. We raise awareness in schools and communities about online grooming and other modern threats, partnering with schools to build replicable protection systems to keep children safe.

Restoring Lives, Empowering Survivors: TAARA provides long-term support to survivors of exploitation. Through trauma care, education, and vocational training, we help them rebuild their lives with dignity.

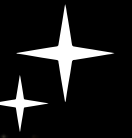
The Power of Collective Impact: None of this work is possible without your support. Whether through donations or raising awareness, you make a direct impact on children and survivors.

This gala is a celebration but also a call to action. Together, we can overcome the challenges ahead and ensure that no child endures exploitation. Thank you for standing with us and helping create lasting change.

With deepest appreciation,

Dinesh Khosla

CHAIR, BOARD OF TRUSTEES





A Note From The President

Welcome to “Reflections: A Golden Evening”,

We are deeply honored to have you with us tonight, standing together in our shared mission to raise awareness, foster hope, and empower survivors of exploitation. Your presence means the world to us, and it's through gatherings like this that we continue to make strides toward a safer future for all children.

RAPID INSIGHTS, REAL ACTION

WHAT WE SAW

- Exploitation doesn't discriminate. It targets all ages and genders.
- Our youngest survivor is an 11-year-old boy in India. Today, he is safe and on the path to recovery, receiving the support he needs, including access to education. With our help, he's now attending school regularly, rebuilding his future, and learning to trust again.
- We're working with 80 survivors from India, the U.S.A, Albania, and Latin America. Despite their different backgrounds, the trauma they've faced is heartbreakingly similar—each story is a reminder of why this fight is urgent.



WHAT WE DID

- Created a year-long curriculum with 12 comprehensive modules covering the toughest topics—sextortion, online enticement, and social media exploitation. We didn't stop at the basics.
- We brought in a dynamic teaching approach—role-playing, quizzes, and interactive videos—to make learning engaging, hands-on, and, most importantly, effective.
- Trained teachers and staff to deliver this content, so they become champions of safety and awareness in their communities.
- For survivors, we offered personalized vocational and educational opportunities. No one-size-fits-all. Our approach? High engagement, low dropout rates, and real impact.

WHAT'S NEXT

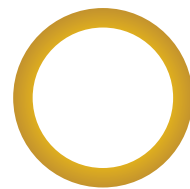
- We're not slowing down. We're learning, adapting, and evolving every single day.
- What do we know for sure? We are making the world safer for children, one step at a time. And survivors are no longer just survivors—they're thriving, building empowered, independent futures.

Thank you for your unwavering support. Because of you, we are one step closer to a world where every child is safe, empowered, and free. Your generosity and belief in this cause make all the difference, and we are truly grateful.

Priya Israni

FOUNDER & PRESIDENT, TAARA





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Thank You to DJ AJ



DJ AJ (Arjun Shah) is one of India's most versatile and well-known disc jockeys. Always musically inclined, AJ began his career at age 15. He has won the title of "Wedding Sutra Best DJ - Platinum" five times in a row, carving out a distinct career for himself as a DJ. What came next was a blazing career boom at numerous prestigious nightclubs and exclusive events around the world.

Today, his portfolio includes endless celebrity events, exclusive weddings, and corporate events. His clientele are a glowing list of celebrities, influencers and dignitaries from around the world. AJ's most memorable work includes the weddings of Kiara Advani/Sidharth Malhotra, Anant Abani/Radhika Merchant, Ranbir Kapoor/Alia Bhatt, Athiya Shetty/KLRahul, Farhan Akhtar/Shibani Dandekar, Akash Ambani/Shloka Mehta, Anand Ahuja/Sonam Kapoor, Virat Kohli/Anushka Sharma, Nick Jonas/Priyanka Chopra, and Anand Piramal/Isha Ambani. His unique mix of music includes Hip-Hop, R&B, Bollywood and Techno and more.

TAARA is thrilled to welcome DJ AJ to our annual gala, adding unforgettable energy to the evening. We are incredibly grateful for your support in making this night truly unforgettable.





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Excellence in Achievement Award – **Nikki Badalato** ✨

Tonight, TAARA honors Nikki Badolato for her extraordinary service to our shared cause. For two decades, Nikki worked on the front lines with the FBI, risking her life to rescue, protect, and bring predators to justice. Her bravery and commitment continue to inspire us.

Tonight, we will be sharing a short video highlighting Nikki's work, including stories and images she graciously shared. Earlier this year, Rolling Stone's Alex Morris wrote a compelling piece on Nikki, detailing her high-risk operations and the emotional toll they took on her. We encourage you to read the article (QR code below).



In 2003, FBI Special Agent Nikki Badolato, under the alias "Paulina," began her first undercover operation targeting online child predators. Over her career, she pioneered methods to infiltrate trafficking networks, always maintaining a trauma-informed approach. Her efforts led to the arrest and conviction of over 1,000 individuals.

Nikki's work was deeply personal, rooted in her own childhood trauma. Despite the toll it took, she remained dedicated, later founding "Innocent Warriors," a program focused on preventing child grooming and trafficking. Nikki now serves on TAARA's Advisory Board, providing invaluable guidance, and works closely with Korina Crusan, a former trafficking victim, to mentor survivors and offer hope for a brighter future.



Scan QR code to read the entire Rolling Stone Article

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Excellence in Inspiration Award – **Korina Crusan**

Korina (Ellison) Crusan is a friend of TAARA and the recipient of our Excellence in Inspiration Award. Korina embodies an extraordinary American story of resilience, survival, and redemption in the face of sex trafficking. Her journey is a testament to the strength of the human spirit, and we are profoundly honored that she has chosen to share her deeply personal story with us. As one of Nikki Badolato's brave rescues, Korina is now embracing a new role: that of a rescuer herself, determined to empower and uplift others who have faced similar struggles.

We have come to admire Korina for her indomitable drive to protect and love her own children, as well as her tireless enthusiasm for helping other survivors break free from the chains of trauma and abuse. Her commitment to ending the cycle of generational harm is nothing short of inspiring. Korina stands as a beacon of hope and perseverance, showing us all what it means to rise above unimaginable circumstances and fight for a future filled with love, healing, and freedom. We are humbled to be part of her journey and look forward to continuing to support her in the important work she is doing.





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May the glimmering lights of hope and solidarity continue to ignite hearts, fostering empowerment and courage on the path towards healing and transformation!

Congratulations TAARA!

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Guiding Light Award - **Karuna Chani**



Karuna Chani is an internationally renowned make-up artist and image consultant. A graduate of the Parsons School of Design and a second-generation entrepreneur, Karuna straddles the worlds of Indian and American fashion and beauty blending best-in-class makeup techniques and a sharp eye for fashion seamlessly as she consults and executes looks for brides and women all over the world.

A survivor of childhood sexual assault, Karuna is an ardent advocate for women enduring abuse and spearheaded the first NYC-area South-Asian #MeToo event where she spoke extensively about her trauma on a panel created in collaboration with *Brown Girl Mag*.

Helping to train others in techniques of makeup and fashion styling is a deep passion of Karuna's, as she believes that encouragement and empowerment can change destinies.

Karuna has generously devoted her time and energy to mentor Renata* in the world of cosmetology, helping her embark on a new journey in life.

TAARA is deeply thankful for mentors like Karuna, who truly transform the lives of survivors.



URBANSTEMS

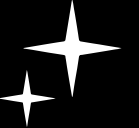
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Excellence in Inspiration Award – Renata*



Those who attended last year's gala surely remember Renata*—a survivor of sex trafficking whose journey embodies resilience and courage. After being rescued and finding refuge at Covenant House NJ, she began rebuilding her life. TAARA has been by her side, initially providing English lessons and now helping her revive her cosmetology career in the U.S.A.

Over the last year, under the expert mentorship of Karuna Chani, Renata regained her confidence and rekindled her passion for makeup. With TAARA's support, she is now enrolled in a cosmetology course here in NJ, where she is working towards earning her license—a crucial step in officially launching her new career. Today, Renata stands as a powerful symbol of triumph, having reclaimed her identity and independence, and is ready to embark on a bright new chapter in her life.

*Name changed to protect identity



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The Class of 2024 - Empowered Graduates ✨

This year, our program in West Bengal, in collaboration with GGBK, has empowered another group of 75 survivors by providing them with essential education and career development opportunities. Through tailored support, we've equipped them with the foundational skills they need to pursue meaningful employment and take their first steps towards independence. With a focus on both academic and vocational training, we are helping these resilient individuals gain confidence, build practical skills, and begin their journey toward a brighter, self-sufficient future. Our graduates are now ready to embark on careers that not only sustain them but also restore their sense of dignity and purpose.



TAARA's very own Alka Rathod handed out certificates and medals to the graduates.



Our graduates proudly displaying their medals!



The ceremony was a day of celebration and joy for all.



"This program has transformed our family's life. My wife regained her confidence and purpose, and the skills she learned have opened up new opportunities. Our financial situation has improved. Inspired by this, I'm proud to join the fight against human trafficking, so more families can rebuild and thrive like ours." - Speech given by graduate's spouse at the 2024 graduation

TAARA's Child Protection Program

An introductory session of the child protection program in collaboration with CCDT, at a school in Maharashtra.



Students attentively learn about safety and the prevention of sexual exploitation, gaining the knowledge needed to protect themselves and their peers.

Students receive vital education on personal hygiene and other essential life skills as a part of the program.



Building New Partnerships - CCDT

About CCDT

Committed Communities Development Trust (CCDT), a highly respected NGO based in Bandra, Mumbai, has championed equal opportunities and dignity for marginalized children and families across Maharashtra for over 30 years. Their work has transformed over 2 million lives, making their commitment to safeguarding rights align perfectly with TAARA's mission.

Our Shared Vision: Proactive Child Protection

Together with CCDT, we focus on proactive child protection. Our shared belief is that combating sex trafficking requires continuous education and empowerment to protect children from exploitation.

Project 1: Child Protection in Schools

In partnership with CCDT, we're launching a child protection program across 20 schools in Mumbai and Thane. This three-year initiative will impact 12,000 children, teaching them to recognize and respond to threats like abuse and trafficking. We're raising awareness among students, teachers, and parents, while strengthening school systems with policies like child protection committees and POSH (Prevention of Sexual Harassment) guidelines.

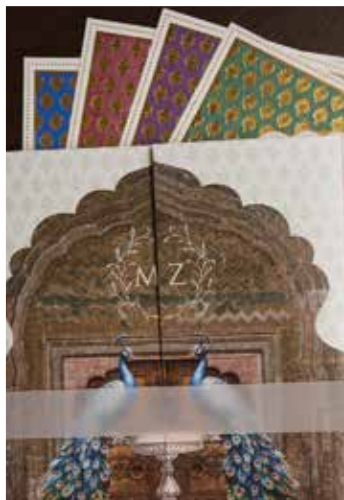
Project 2: Education and Livelihood Support for Survivors

Our second initiative focuses on supporting 35 adolescent survivors of abuse and trafficking. Over the next year, we will provide counseling, education, and vocational training to help them reintegrate into society and build sustainable livelihoods.

Measuring Impact

TAARA requires quarterly financial and progress reports to ensure transparency and accountability, enabling us to track and enhance the impact of these programs. We have implemented data tracking tools to capture the variables associated with each of our subjects, and their progress over time, in order to evaluate efficacy.





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Building New Partnerships - VIPLA



About VIPLA Foundation

Thirty-five years ago, Mrs. Vipula Kadri, known as 'Vipla,' was deeply moved by the sight of children huddled together for warmth in the heavy Mumbai rain. This moment inspired her to found VIPLA. Today, the Vipla Foundation continues her mission, helping children from vulnerable communities across India learn, grow, and thrive.



Project 1: Vocational Training for Survivors

In partnership with Vipla Foundation, we are transforming the lives of 60 courageous women each year—women aged 25 to 40—who have survived the trauma of sex trafficking. We are providing crucial vocational training and entrepreneurship support to these women.



Project 2: Basic Education for minors

With VIPLA, we're also shaping futures for younger survivors, offering formal education that open doors to stable, dignified careers. The minors range from 11 to 15 years old and live in four dedicated shelter homes where this program is being implemented.

Project 3: Child Protection in Schools

Building on the success of our efforts with CCDT, we are launching a child protection program in schools, in collaboration with Vipla. This initiative will focus on educating both minors and faculty about the dangers of sexual exploitation, both online and offline. By raising awareness and fostering a safe environment, we are taking proactive steps to prevent future victimization and protect vulnerable children from the threat of exploitation.



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✦✦ Safeguarding Children Through **Animation**

We are thrilled to announce a major development in our mission to protect children from online dangers. At TAARA, innovation is key, and we are proud to unveil our latest creation:

A Dynamic Animation Movie

An engaging and vibrant animation movie designed to deliver critical online safety messages to children in a way that is both fun and unforgettable. We worked with a Hindi jingle-writer and professional musicians among our community to record a soundtrack designed to delight and be remembered as it delivers safety protocols.

Backed by Research

Our animation taps into the power of visual storytelling. Research shows:

- Animation boosts engagement by 60%
- Children are 50% more likely to remember information presented through visuals and sound
- This makes complex safety ideas easy for children to understand and remember.

Just the Beginning!

This movie is the first in a series of animations that we'll use to reinforce key safety messages throughout our curriculum. We plan to play the animation before each session to prepare children for deeper learning.



Meet **TAARA Didi** ✦✦

Meet TAARA Didi

The heart of our animation is **TAARA Didi**—our organization's namesake and the embodiment of wisdom and care.

In Hindi, “**Didi**” means **elder sister**—a term of respect and affection. TAARA Didi, dressed in our signature orange, is the guiding light for children as they navigate the digital world.

TAARA Didi teaches kids how to:

- Recognize danger
- Avoid predators
- Stay safe online

This isn't just a movie; it's a movement! Children will remember the lessons, sing along, and share these messages with their friends.

TAARA Didi: More Than a Character

TAARA Didi represents our commitment to protecting every child. She empowers children to take control of their safety while helping others do the same.

Designed to resonate with everyone, especially from marginalized communities, TAARA Didi reflects their real-life experiences, making the lessons personal and relevant.

Together, we are building a safer world—one child at a time. Thank you for being part of this transformative journey with us!



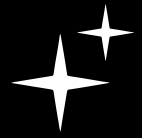
*Congratulations to the entire TAARA team on
their hard work in the fight against sex
trafficking while preventing future victims.*



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Empowering Children Against **Exploitation**

A Proactive Approach to Combatting Sex Trafficking

We recognized early on that the battle against sex trafficking demands more than reactive measures; it requires a proactive, circular approach. This realization inspired us to create a structured, dynamic curriculum that empowers children with the knowledge and tools to safeguard themselves and others from exploitation.

Our curriculum is unique in its:

- Global Reach: Tailored to the diverse challenges faced by children worldwide.
- Adaptability: Designed to evolve and adapt to the needs of various regions.

Currently, our curriculum is being taught in 20 schools in India with plans to expand into the United States.

Modern Threats Addressed

We tackle the critical threats children face today:

- Online Enticement & Grooming Signs: Empowering children with the knowledge to recognize digital predators.
- Digital Platforms Awareness: Teaching the role of platforms like WhatsApp, Instagram, Snapchat, and Facebook with a strong emphasis on privacy.
- Sextortion, Deep Fakes, and Hacking: Addressing difficult but crucial topics to protect children in the digital age.

Building Self-Worth and Trust

Children are taught to:

- Cherish their Self-Worth
- Trust Their Instincts in identifying unsafe situations
- Set Personal Boundaries and respond to uncomfortable encounters
- Recognize Unsafe Touch and distinguish between safe and unsafe adults

Equipping Families with Communication Tools

Open dialogue is key to prevention. We provide tools for both children and parents to foster essential conversations around safety, trafficking, and online exploitation.



A Global Curriculum for **Child Protection**

Interactive Learning for Lasting Impact

Our curriculum includes:

- Thought-provoking Illustrations
- Role-play Scenarios
- Q&A Sessions at the end of each module for reinforcement and feedback

Expanding Our Vision Globally

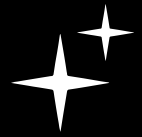
We are working on translating this life-saving curriculum into multiple languages, with versions in English and Hindi already available. Our goal is to reach every corner of the world with this vital resource.

A snapshot of our work - Scan QR below code to see the full booklet



Join Us in Protecting the Future: By rolling out this curriculum across the U.S.A and India, we are committed to protecting children globally from the dangers of exploitation and online threats.





Our Heartfelt Gratitude - **Rajeev Mehta**

A Dedicated Partner in Advancing TAARA's Mission

We extend our deepest gratitude to Rajeev for his incredible generosity and dedication in helping us develop the child safety curriculum. His pro bono support has been invaluable in bringing our vision to life, and his commitment to empowering children and preventing exploitation shines through in every detail of the work.

About Rajeev Mehta

Rajeev is the founder of Reanalyze, a consulting and business research firm that stands out for its commitment to delivering actionable results. With years of experience witnessing the challenges of inefficient research, Rajeev ensures that projects are handled with clear communication, realistic timelines, and the use of reliable sources. Reanalyze caters to both startups and large companies, making research stress-free and effective—so much so that Rajeev likens the experience to the ease of enjoying a music concert or a peaceful nature walk.

Thanks to Rajeev's expertise and passion, we are one step closer to creating a safer world for vulnerable children.



For more information visit www.reanalyze.com or email rajmehta@reanalyze.com



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If we have inadvertently missed acknowledging anyone, we sincerely apologize and deeply appreciate your kindness and support.



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and your vision to restore autonomy
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*"Defeating human trafficking
is a great moral calling for our time."*

~ Condoleezza Rice, former U.S. Secretary of State

Thank you to Team TAARA for
helping change lives and to empower women.

With Best Wishes,
Simran, Bharti and Bobby Ramani



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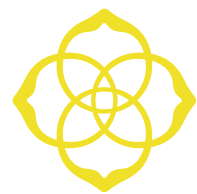
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MICHAEL ARAM

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new business

nishika
JEWELS BY PRAIRNA

We are so proud of you Mom!
Looking forward to your success in this new
venture, and continued success of the TAARA team.

With Love,
Kanishka & Tesh Kewlani

Looking Ahead – Plans For 2025

In 2025, TAARA is committed to expanding our efforts both in India and globally, with a focus on child protection, survivor empowerment, and securing essential resources. Our key initiatives include:

Expansion of the Child Protection Program

We will broaden the reach of our child protection program, bringing it to more schools and communities across India and internationally, equipping children with the tools and knowledge to protect themselves from sexual exploitation.

Continued Development of Educational Modules and Engaging Animated Videos

We will continue to enhance our curriculum with new modules that address emerging threats such as online enticement, grooming, and sextortion. To further engage children, we will create more animated videos that make critical safety information accessible and engaging. We aim to develop videos aimed at a larger audience to ensure our message reaches children of all ages and ethnicities globally effectively.

Increased Support for Survivors in the U.S.A

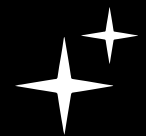
We will expand our programs for survivors of sex trafficking in the U.S., offering comprehensive support through education, vocational training, and resources to help them rebuild their lives and regain their independence.

Pursuit of Substantial Grant Funding

A key focus for 2025 is securing substantial grant funding to sustain and expand our programs, enabling us to reach more children and survivors globally while advancing our mission to combat exploitation.

Through these initiatives, we hope to make a lasting global impact, protecting children and empowering survivors.

TAARA
TRAFFICKING AWARENESS, ADVOCACY & RESTORING AUTONOMY

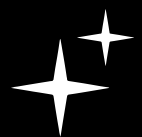


A Trip Down Memory Lane - Gala 2023



A Trip Down Memory Lane - Gala 2023





The People Behind **TAARA**

LEADERSHIP TEAM

DINESH KHOSLA, CHAIR
PRIYA ISRANI, PRESIDENT
RAJIV ADVANI, VICE PRESIDENT
LAVINA DATWANI, VICE PRESIDENT
NISHITA DATWANI
CRISTY KAUR
MUDIT GUPTA
URVASHI MISHRA
SHILPA MADHYANAPU
ALKA RATHOD
PRIYA KAT ROUBIAN
DR. NIKETA GOVINDANI
SHILPA SADHWANI
BHARTI RAMANI
ANIL RAO, PROGRAM MANAGER (INDIA)
EVA NAVON, PROGRAM MANAGER
DIVYA ADVANI, SOCIAL MEDIA COORDINATOR

ADVISORY BOARD

ROOPAL LUHANA
CONCHITA SARNOFF
PRITI PATEL
JEFFREY D.BROWN
JENNIFER BROWN STONE
ANIL BANSAL
NIKKI BADALATO

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FOR MORE INFORMATION
EMAIL : SALES@THEKENILWORTHHOTEL.COM
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580 North Maple Ave,
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