

I, Inga, have been to India regularly since 1996, I travelled around the country, learned one of the Indian languages (Tamil) and have spent a lot of time in the MoseMinistries home. I am absolutely appalled by the circumstances at MoseMinistries since September 2015 as well as Gideon Jacob's arrest, which is based on unthinkable accusations and which totally lack any foundation and are altogether a lie. I am a close friend and a "big sister" to the MoseMinistries girls and I am also connected with Gideon Jacob through a long-standing friendship. It is unbearable for me to see how the lives of 89 young women are now systematically destroyed. These young women, who were unwanted and rejected by their own families (forcibly brought about due to standards of society) and handed over as helpless and vulnerable babies to MoseMinistries, have found a real home there because of people who truly considered them as valuable.

As I have a profound love for India, I feel a deep pain in my heart when I see what India is doing to its daughters – and not only to them, but also to those who have committed themselves to saving their lives and caring for their welfare! At this point, I want to refer to the campaign "Beti Bachao, beti Padhao (save the girl child, educate the girl child) which was initiated by Prime Minister Modi in January 2015 in order to initiate action against the growing problem of eliminating girls in his nation. That is exactly what has been implemented at MoseMinistries in an exemplary manner throughout all the years! I not only got to know all the girls in MoseMinistries very well but also witnessed how they grew up in the MoseMinistries family over the past 20 years. I saw the condition in which the girls were handed over to the MoseMinistries home, most of them when they had just been born: Some of them weighed not more than 1250g; some of whom the families had already tried to kill, some who had chronic diseases and deformities. They were cared for in a wonderful way and also received medical treatment. The co-workers (who I got to know personally) were often concerned for the lives of the girls and took every effort to save and care for the welfare of these children through investing their love and time. Those who witnessed this will also testify that it was never about making any kind of profit out of the girls.

For Gideon Jacob and his team, each and every case was about saving girls but his intention was just as much about giving these girls hope, dignity and a good future. All the girls, without any exception, were sent to good public schools. Throughout the girls' years of schooling great attention was given to the compulsory study times in the mornings before school and in the evenings after school. Every evening female teachers came to the MoseMinistries compound to give tuition to the girls in all their subjects according to their standard and to prepare them for their exams. Because of this, 57 of the 89 girls reached High School graduation (12th standard), which opens a way for them to further education. Another 19 girls finished 10th standard. Due to learning disabilities, 12 of the girls were unable to achieve any graduation. Until the authorities took over the home, these girls had the chance with private individual teaching to prepare themselves for the 10th standard exams. Eunice, the eldest of the girls is mentally handicapped. To give her a chance too and for those who are slow learners and who need special attention, several vocational training opportunities were established for example a Bakery Apprenticeship with international products. I personally could see how especially girls with learning disabilities were not only strengthened in their self-confidence through special support but also developed in their working capacity up to the level that they were able to grasp and realize whole work procedures in theory and practice.

As the girls became older, more attention was given to their safety and protection. The leaders and co-workers of the home were very aware of the sad truth that teenage girls are exposed to many dangers in India and that their status of being "home children" makes them even more vulnerable

and an easy target in their own society. Therefore the girls were always under supervision, wherever they went. They never went out alone but always in groups and in the company of adult female caretakers. The concern for their safety may have sometimes limited their freedom more than in a normal family situation ... that much is true of the accusation that the girls were isolated in the home without being allowed to visit other places. Yes, they were allowed – but never alone, and their security was always the first priority! There were always security staff on the MoseMinistries compound to protect the compound as well as the girls. I am a witness that these men were very carefully chosen. I oppose clearly and vehemently the accusation that sexual abuse happened at any time. I had a constant insight into the daily life of the girls and could build a relationship with each of them. Having seen the development of their personality, their open and generally positive and joyful behavior along with their life-affirming determination, there is no doubt in the conclusion that their environment was stable and secure!

My first visit to MoseMinistries was in 1996 in Usilampatti. In that very year and in the following years many children were brought to the home. People had been skeptical at first towards MoseMinistries, but the home was soon acknowledged and well known as a good place. More and more families, who were due to different reasons not able to or didn't want to raise their girls and decided not to kill their daughters, brought them to the home. No one ever forced them to do so; it was an opportunity that the families voluntarily accepted in order to not "have to" kill their daughters. The at that time chairman of the City Council of Usilampatti, Akini Thevar, supported the home and was active himself in convincing families not to kill their girl babies. It was he who settled the official handing over of the girls to the home and also checked regularly whether everything was going well in the home. He was proud to save girls! The location of the home was always well known even after the transfer to Trichy. The houses were marked with big boards which showed the home as MoseMinistries and as a humanitarian project of the Christian church federation "Good Shepherd Evangelical Mission" for the relief of women and children in need. Yet in the past over 20 years since MoseMinistries had been established, none of the family members of the girls ever came or showed any interest in the girls or even demanded them back. During my regular visits to India and in the home all the girls were always there. There is no question of human trafficking, disappearance of girls or mysterious cases of deaths. I want to explicitly point out, that I can not only witness to this fact because I have seen it with my own eyes, but also the girls own development shows this clearly. Children who are brought up in an environment of insecurity, fear, abuse, manipulation, inhuman treatment and violence would have never shown such good progress which can be seen in MoseMinistries. What is even more incredible is the fact that the official authorities who are actually deployed for the protection and care of needy children and youth purposely take part in an obvious conspiracy which is based alone on lies and is obviously motivated by the goal to destroy Gideon Jacob and his Christian church federation. This scheming has been carried out at the brunt of the MoseMinistries girls for the past two years, and as they are the weakest link in the chain, the destruction of their lives is simply accepted. The same official authorities who are now accusing Gideon Jacob and MoseMinistries today have since 2014 in my own hearing attested to the fact that MoseMinistries is one of the most exemplary led homes in whole of Tamil Nadu! I know all the 89 girls by name. From time to time I shared life experiences with them; I talked with them, listened to them, cried with them and laughed with them. I remember how often the girls returned from school in tears because not only the classmates but also the teachers have called them "garbage children" saying: "You have been thrown away, nobody wants you!" When the government decided to "save" them from those people who have given them a childhood full of protection, security and

opportunities to develop and provided a life of dignity for them, they were deprived of every foundation of their lives in one moment. The girls and young women were just at that time in the process of getting ahead in life and being able to overcome the rejection and the pain of being an “unwanted daughter of India”, becoming young women full of self-confidence and hope for their future. A deep desire had grown within them to contribute to the welfare of their mother-country and to stand up for justice and for compassion with the weak of their nation. Gideon Jacob saw the value of these girls and their lives in the light of God’s love and inspired and encouraged others to get involved as well in the struggle for life in India. The accusation that the Christian faith was imposed on the girls is a farce in the light of the fact that the only people who committed themselves to the cause of these girls, to save their lives, were always the very same people who saw God’s value in them and who were driven by God’s love. This same God is the God the girls started to trust as years went by and they have never been disappointed. Gideon Jacob is now in jail amongst hardcore criminals because he is accused of kidnapping, slavery, rape and being a pimp of the MoseMinistries girls. And even then, he is holding his ground, because his country means so much to him that he is ready to fight and suffer for justice and for good. The life of the 89 girls means so much to him that he is ready to even sacrifice his own life for the welfare of them. The truth be told, it is people like him who really stand for transformation in India (Change India)! What people like him sow is exactly what will make the nation of India one day flourish!

Inga