

ARZ ANNUAL REPORT 20 25



www.arzindia.org



• Anti-Sex Trafficking • Livelihoods • Child Protection

A survivor-centred journey towards dignity, choice, and justice

FOREWORD

“Our role is not to speak for survivors, but to walk alongside them.”



**JULIANA
LOHAR**

Deputy Director, ARZ

At ARZ, survivors are not beneficiaries they are at the centre of everything we do.

Every woman and child who comes to us carries a story of loss, fear, and injustice. But they also carry strength. Our role is not to speak for them, but to walk alongside them as they move from trauma towards safety, dignity, and choice. This Annual Report reflects that shared journey.

Over the past year, survivors have shaped our work how we respond to rescue, how we provide counselling and legal support, and how we design pathways for rehabilitation. Healing does not happen overnight. It happens through trust, consistent support, and systems that respect the survivor's pace and decisions.

Economic independence remains one of the strongest tools for long term recovery. Through WISH, survivors are learning skills, earning incomes, and rebuilding their sense of self-worth. Each product they create represents not just labour, but resilience, courage, and the right to a life free from exploitation.

Our work is strengthened through collaboration with the Goa Police, the Department of Women and Child Development, Legal Services Authorities, community leaders, and partners across states. Together, we are working to ensure that responses to trafficking and sexual abuse are coordinated, sensitive, and truly survivor centered.

This journey would not be possible without the courage of survivors who place their trust in us, the dedication of our team, and the continued support of our partners and donors. Your solidarity makes space for survivors to heal, grow, and reclaim their futures.

As we move forward, ARZ remains committed to listening to survivors, strengthening systems around them, and standing with them so that every survivor can move towards an Anyay Rahit Zindagi, a life free from injustice.

ARZ AT A GLANCE

Who We Are

ARZ (Anyay Rahit Zindagi) is a development organization working since 1997 to end sex trafficking, prevent sexual exploitation, and support survivor-led rehabilitation.

What We Do

**Anti-Sex
Trafficking &
Rescue**

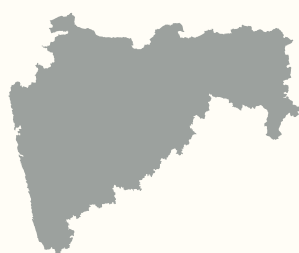
**Rehabilitation &
Legal Aid**

**Livelihoods &
Economic
Empowerment
(WISH)**

**Child Protection
& Prevention**

Where We Work

Goa | Maharashtra | West Bengal | Delhi | Karnataka



Our Recognition

**Nodal NGO for
Anti-Human
Trafficking, Goa
Police**

**Rehabilitation
Partner, DWCD
– Government of
Goa**



ABOUT ARZ

Founded by professionals from the Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Mumbai, ARZ brings over 25 years of field-based experience in working with women and children affected by sexual exploitation and violence.

Our work follows a continuum of care, from rescue to reintegration, ensuring survivors are supported with dignity, choice, and long-term security. We work closely with government systems and civil society to strengthen responses and accountability.

LIVELIHOOD AND REHABILITATION OF THE VICTIMS



ANTI-SEX TRAFFICKING WORK



PREVENTION OF SEXUAL EXPLOITATION



OUR THEORY OF CHANGE

HOW CHANGE HAPPENS

RESCUE

Safe Identification & Immediate Intervention

PROTECTION

Protection & Legal Safeguards

HEALING

Healing & Psychosocial Care

LIVELIHOOD

Economic Empowerment

REINTEGRATION

Survivor-Led Social Reintegration

PREVENTION

Community Awareness & Risk Reduction

When survivors receive safety, trauma-informed care, legal support, and economic opportunities, they are able to reclaim control over their lives — reducing vulnerability to re-trafficking and exploitation.

PROGRESS

Rescue

During the year, ARZ coordinated rescue operations in collaboration with Anti-Human Trafficking Units, Crime Branch, and local police. Survivors were rescued from exploitative settings such as massage parlors, guest houses and hotels and were immediately placed in Government Protective Home



41
RESCUES

Child
Sexual
Abuse

14

Commercial
Sexual
Exploitation

26

Protection

Legal intervention is central to ARZ's anti-trafficking work. We support survivors through the criminal justice process by assisting with FIRs, case documentation, court accompaniment, and preparation for depositions and testimonies. This ensures survivor participation while minimizing re-traumatization. ARZ also engages closely with Magistrates, CWCs, and law enforcement to inform decisions related to custody, care, and protection.



232
LEGAL
ASSISTANCE

Domestic Violence

Child
Sexual
Abuse

35

42

Commercial
Sexual
Exploitation

155

Healing

Survivors and their families often require sustained emotional, social, and health support. ARZ facilitates access to therapeutic counselling and essential health services within Government Protective Home and through community-based services, helping survivors stabilize, rebuild coping skills, and prepare for reintegration.



435
COUNSELLING



89
HEALTH
SUPPORT

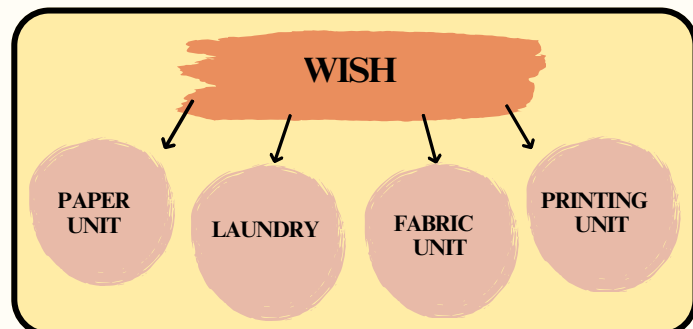


PROGRESS



Livelihood

WISH is an initiative of Arz to economically rehabilitate the victims of sex trafficking. WISH is a collective of women who have faced sexual violence and victims of sex trafficking, who are working towards economic empowerment through different business alternatives.



This year we have expanded WISH to North Goa Thivim Industrial Area.



For a long time, I lived feeling tired and weak, my heart felt like I was having an attack, and I felt so sick and low every single day. I was always worried. Since joining WISH my life has changed. I can meet the counsellor and share my problem. I have the other girls as my family. I feel safe. I am able to decide my own future

I am so happy because for the first time, I have my own ATM card. The Didi's from Arz taught me how to use it, to take out my own money. Now, I don't have to go to anyone and ask for help and permission. The money I earned is mine.

PROGRESS

Reintegration

ARZ facilitates reintegration through psychosocial support, family engagement, and employable skills training, along with education to second-generation victims to reduce vulnerability and prevent re-exploitation.



302



Repatriation

ARZ facilitates the safe return of survivors to their home communities within India and across borders, in coordination with government authorities and partners. During the year, ARZ supported repatriation to different parts of India as well as to **Kenya** and **Bangladesh**.



10



Prevention

ARZ works in Goa and beyond to prevent the sexual exploitation of women and children by strengthening community vigilance and institutional response systems. ARZ works closely with communities to raise awareness, build understanding of risks, and promote early identification and reporting of child sexual abuse and trafficking. Alongside this, ARZ conducts training and capacity-building programmes for government officials, law-enforcement agencies, and frontline stakeholders to enhance their ability to prevent exploitation, respond effectively, and ensure protection of vulnerable children and women.



With Government
Systems

1624

With Community

10390



NEW INITIATIVE & INNOVATION -

POTI

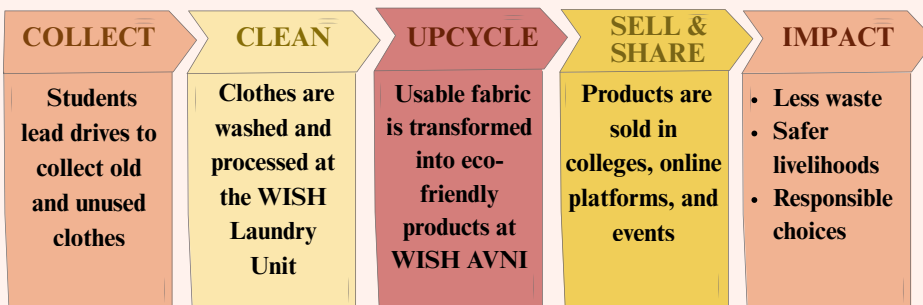
Protection of Ocean, Trees, and Inhabitants (POTI also means “bag” in Konkani)

WHAT IS POTI?

POTI is ARZ's environmental and livelihood initiative that transforms discarded clothes into eco-friendly products, while creating dignified livelihoods for survivors of sexual violence.

It promotes sustainable habits, reduced waste, and conscious consumption.

HOW POTI WORKS



COLLABORATION

Implemented in partnership with
Goa Waste Management Corporation



Collection



Sorting and Washing



Providing Livelihood



Up-cycled Products



Products for Sale

WHY POTI MATTERS

- Reduces textile waste entering landfills and oceans
- Encourages eco-conscious behaviour among youth
- Creates market-linked livelihoods for survivors
- Connects environmental protection with social justice

POTI Represents

A cleaner planet.
A changed habit.
A Survivor's dignity.



- 4600 people were made aware about reducing consumption of single use plastic
- 4314 cloth bags stitched by the survivors of sexual violence were distributed free of cost to support reducing plastic use

Choose sustainability. Support survivors. Reduce waste.
Every small action creates lasting change.



Restoring a Life

M travelled from Kenya to India seeking a better life, but instead, she was trapped in the nightmare of sex trafficking. After being moved across three cities, she took a courageous step: she searched for help on social media and reached out to Arz.

What followed was a powerful demonstration of coordinated justice. The Goa Police executed a swift rescue and arrested the traffickers, ensuring they could no longer harm others. Legal processes were immediately initiated, and the Goa Legal Services Authority stepped in to sanction an interim compensation of ₹50,000, providing M with the financial foundation she deserved.

True recovery, however, happened within the safety of the Government Protective Home. Initially, M was physically ill from the weight of constant worry and exhaustion. Through Arz's counselling and the POTI livelihood program, she began to heal by doing. Mastering the skill of bag stitching transformed her spirit; she moved from a state of helplessness to the pride of earning an income during her stay.

In just 2 months and 25 days, coordinated cross border efforts saw M safely returned to Kenya. Supported by a local NGO, she continues to upgrade her skills to earn an independent living. M didn't just return home she returned as a survivor with her dignity and her future in her own hands.



HIGHLIGHTS AND ACHIEVEMENTS

Kenyan trafficking victim awarded Rs 50,000 compensation in Goa

District Legal Services Authority grants relief under State scheme after survivor's harrowing ordeal across India

Team Herald

PANJIM: Shantashri S S Kuchadkar, Secretary, District Legal Services Authority, North Goa (Merces), has awarded compensation of Rs 50,000 to a Kenyan national who was a victim of sexual assault.

This is the first time that compensation has been granted to a foreign national under the Goa Compensation Scheme for Women Victim/Survivors of Sexual Assault/Other Crimes, 2018, based on the victim's statements during the preliminary inquiry.

The woman was a victim of national human trafficking. She was deceptively lured to India from Kenya under false promises of employment and was subsequently coerced into commercial sexual exploitation, suffering severe physical and psychological trauma.

During the inquiry, the victim stated that she endured violence, threats, and financial deprivation, which have had lasting effects on her well-being. She was the sole breadwinner for her family, including her minor daughter and a dependent guardian. Her trafficking experience left her in urgent need of rehabilitation and reintegration support.

She detailed the financial impact, citing Rs 20,000 for rehabilitation and reintegration costs (post-repatriation), Rs 30,000 for loss of livelihood and economic hardship, and Rs 20,000 for medical and psychological treatment—totaling Rs 70,000.

The preliminary inquiry was conducted via video conference as the victim had already been repatriated to Kenya in May this year.

The woman, who had studied up to high school, had previously worked as a house help in Lebanon for two-and-a-half years. After returning to Kenya, she received a WhatsApp message from an unknown woman offering her a job in India. Convinced by the promise of hotel employment, she arrived in Mumbai on November 18, 2024, and later travelled to Hyderabad and Bengaluru, where she stayed with the woman, identified as Nancy.

Nancy later informed her she would have to engage in prostitution and pay Rs 5.5 lakh or face threats of harm. The victim, fearful, complied and was taken to a brothel the same night. She was then moved between cities, including Mumbai and Jaipur, before arriving in Goa on February 3, 2025. There, the victim refused to continue with the exploitation and began seeking help.

She contacted her country's human rights authorities, who referred her to ARZ. On March 3, after being shifted to Candolim and assisted by another girl sent by Nancy, she reached out to the ARZ representative Juliana. She was rescued the following day and taken to the Crime Branch station at Ribandar.

Nancy was later identified in Bengaluru and Goa. The victim, repatriated to Kenya, continues to receive mental health treatment.

During the year, ARZ facilitated the first-ever victim compensation in Goa for an international trafficking survivor, with the Government assuring ₹50,000 as interim compensation following successful rescue, prosecution, and repatriation to Kenya.

S Goa administration directs establishments to form POSH panels

NT Reporter
Panaji

The South Goa district administration has issued directions to municipalities, panchayats, and municipalities to ensure that massage parlours, hotels, clubs, and pubs in the district have constituted internal committees under the Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act, 2013 (POSH Act).

The office of the Collector and District Magistrate of South Goa has written to the chief officers of municipalities, panchayats, and the taluka mamlatdars, instructing them to ensure that all such establishments comply with the Act. Taluka mamlatdars have also been directed to submit a list of these establishments.

The matter was brought to the Collector's attention by Arun Pandey, Director and founding member of the NGO ARZ (Aunty Rahit Zindagi).

ARZ had requested the administration to conduct inspections of spas, mas-



sage parlours, hotels, casinos, clubs, and pubs in South Goa to verify compliance with the Act.

Non-compliance came to light earlier this month when police raided two massage parlours in South Goa and rescued nine girls from commercial sexual exploitation.

Pandey said the establishments had either constituted internal committees as mandated under Section 4 of the Act or were they connected to the local committee constituted under Section 6 at the district level.



Two spa establishments in Colva have been shut down on the orders of the South Goa Collector after a report from the Superintendent of Police alleged illegal activities at the premises. Following verification, the Collector directed the Mamlatdar of Salcete to immediately seal Royal Spa and Happiness Will Grow Unisex Salon and Spa, both found to be operating in violation of provisions under the Goa Public Health Act. Happiness Will Grow Unisex Salon and Spa was sealed on December 9, 2025, while Royal Spa was sealed the following day on December 10, 2025. Authorities said further

ARZ in coordination with the Police, conducted rescues at massage parlours, resulting in the rescue of victims, sealing of establishments and collector giving directions to all such establishments to comply with POSH Act and form Internal Committees.

RESOURCE DIRECTORY

Government Schemes and Helplines for Victims of Sex Trafficking

Publication of an online directory of services for victims



Expansion of WISH to North Goa (Thivim Industrial Area)



WISH partnered with Hyperpure, a subsidiary of Zomato, to supply eco-friendly paper bags, enabling market-linked livelihoods while promoting sustainable packaging solutions.

'EXPLICIT' CHRISTMAS-SEASON EVENT TRIGGERS OUTRAGE IN GOA

NGOs demand action against Arambol camp organisers for allegedly promoting sexual activities

Team Herald

PANJIM: A controversial online poster advertising a four-day event titled 'Tales of Kamasutra & Christmas Celebration' — detailing explicit activities — has sparked concern and outrage across Goa, with several NGOs urging the police to verify the organisers' credentials and take immediate action for allegedly promoting commercial sexual activity.

According to the WhatsApp advertisement/poster, the event is being organised by the 'Bhagwan Shree Rajneesh Foundation' and is scheduled to take place in Arambol from December 25 to 28.

Vasco-based NGO Arz (Aunty Rahit Zindagi), which works to combat sexual violence and trafficking, emailed a letter to the SP (Crime Branch) on Friday requesting an investigation into the 'suspicious advertisement' circulating on WhatsApp. Arz director Arun Pandey urged police to verify the authenticity of both the organisation and the event, and to take steps to prevent any unlawful or exploitative activities.

“Action should be taken because it is bringing a bad name to Goa and promoting commercial sexual activity. We expect some action against the organiser and the advertiser. My friend, a retired Judge from Mumbai, called me and alerted me about the event. The advertisement is circulated in close groups”

— Arun Pandey, Arz director

“We are enquiring about it. I have asked for details”

— Rahul Gupta, IPS, SP (Crime Branch)

“Goa is deliberately being forced into Osho-type celebrations, luring tourists to Goa. Under the pretext of celebrating Christmas, a solemn and a family celebration of the birth of Christ, the organisers are taking the focus away from worship and prayers”

— Auda Viegas, NGO Balaicho Ekvott president

“I condemn the event for promoting sex tourism. It is shameful that such an event is being advertised on Christmas Day. Such messaging further damages Goa's reputation”

— Fr Eremito Rebello

'PURELY A MEDITATION EVENT': ORGANISER

Manjit Singh of the Osho Luthiana Meditation Society, while confirming that they are organising the controversial 'Tales of Kamasutra & Christmas Celebration' in Goa, clarified that the event is purely oriented towards meditation and not promoting 'open sex' as feared by local NGOs.

Singh said, “The word Kamasutra has nothing to do with open sex. It is purely a meditation event. We had conducted two similar events in Goa in March and September this year and its photographs are uploaded on Instagram. People from respected families are attending it. We are not doing any bad work.”



The Government of Goa allotted a land parcel and the GPS Sindolim building to ARZ, to sustain institutional support for survivor rehabilitation and protection services.

ARZ's timely intervention prompted police enquiry and public discourse after raising concerns over an event allegedly promoting commercial sexual activity, with the issue being highlighted prominently in leading state media.

Ways to Walk With ARZ

Standing alongside survivors and strengthening systems



Buy with Purpose – WISH Products

When you choose WISH products, you support survivor livelihoods and ethical supply chains—turning consumption into contribution.



Make a Donation

Support that stays for the long journey.

**For Donations
Contact: 9850962390**



Partner with ARZ for CSR Initiatives

Strategic partnerships. Sustainable outcomes.



Collaborate on Training & System Strengthening

Strong systems save more lives.



Support Prevention & Awareness Programs

Prevention begins with knowledge. Support outreach programs that educate communities, youth, and stakeholders before exploitation occurs.

Every partnership creates space for dignity and independence

Join us in empowering the marginalized

Any donation to ARZ is Tax Exempted

(ARZ is registered as Society, Trust, FCRA, 80 G, CSR, Darpan)

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