



# CHHANV FOUNDATION

Kushal House, 39, Nehru Place, New Delhi -110019

Registration No. U85100DL2014NPL271152

**Date:** Date: 1st June 2020

**Ref.No :**

## PRESS RELEASE FOR E-PRESS CONFERENCE

1st June 2020; 12 p.m. IST: An E-Press Conference was held on Google Meet by Chhanv Foundation, a Non-Profit Organisation in India working for the rehabilitation of acid attack survivors, to announce the launch of the **Fundraising Campaign** by one of the survivors, that focuses on a minimum survival amount of **Rs. 5000 to the 30 survivors working at Sheroes Hangout Café in Agra and Lucknow.**

Sheroes Hangout is an initiative of the Chhanv Foundation that started in Agra in December 2014 and today with two cafes running, one at Agra and the other at Lucknow, the Foundation has employed these 30 survivors and added value in the lives of hundreds of other girls.

Since the **Coronavirus** has hit various countries across the globe, we too, are not unaffected by this global pandemic. COVID-19 has brought some of the most difficult times that we have seen together, as the human race. This pandemic has not just caused our survivors to **lose out on their income** because of the lockdown across the country but has also had a negative and de-motivational impact on their psyche.

As communicated by **Mr. Alok Dixit, the Founder of the Chhanv Foundation** along with his colleagues, the first phase of this campaign will ensure the minimum survival amount as mentioned above to **30 acid attack survivors for the next 6 months**. They said, “We are trying to save the employment of these survivors at the moment but at the same time we are also trying to provide a minimum survival amount to about 100 acid attack survivors in our network.”

Throughout the conference, the panel representing Chhanv Foundation largely discussed the devastating hardships that the survivors are facing during this difficult time, along with the role of the State governments in easing the discomfort of the survivors, and the Foundation’s key demands and future



# CHHANV FOUNDATION

Kushal House, 39, Nehru Place, New Delhi -110019

Registration No. U85100DL2014NPL271152

**Date:**

**Ref.No :**

plan of action. **Mr. Ashish Shukla, the Executive Director** of the Foundation along with his colleague **Mr. Ajeet Singh** and **Mr. Abhay Singh** emphasized on the impact of Chhanv Foundation and it's recently launched helpline number to assist the survivors in need and propagated the cause of the Foundation.

The conference was moderated by **Ms. Damyanti Biswas**, author of the famous crime thriller 'You Beneath Your Skin' and a close volunteer with the Chhanv Foundation. The conference also hosted five acid attack survivors, namely, **Anshu, Farah, Pramodini, Ritu and Rupa** who talked about their fears and how they successfully overcame these obstacles because of the support received from the Foundation. On the question of challenges being faced by the survivors and the Foundation, Mr. Shukla replied saying, "As a Foundation, this lockdown has posed numerous challenges in front of us and while we tried to deal with them, we now find ourselves in dire need of funds for all the challenges that remain as a problem for our dear survivors. One such hindrance being faced by our youngest survivor Julie is that her facial surgeries of the area near her eye remain far from being completed as the facial restructure surgeries happen in a series of operations which came to a halt because of the COVID-19 lockdown.

Furthermore, we were told that unlike all the other corporate enterprises are laying off their employees due to these difficult times that we are facing because of the global pandemic, we at Chhanv consider our survivors as our family and we don't intend on taking any one's employment away from them. Hence, we are in need of funds. Alok Dixit pointed out how it is a State government's responsibility to ensure that programmes such as Rehabilitation of the survivors is being taken care of without any hassles being faced in the process. However, any definite direction from the concerned authorities seems inadequate and lacking in today's day and age. Ajeet Singh told us that the Foundation is blessed to have some hardworking volunteers who have taken up the responsibility to encourage our survivors to enhance their skills and pursue their passion, through certain training sessions. He also told us how various online programmes were hosted by the Foundation to fortify the mental well-being of our



# CHHANV FOUNDATION

Kushal House, 39, Nehru Place, New Delhi -110019

Registration No. U85100DL2014NPL271152

**Date:**

**Ref.No :**

survivors. Abhay Singh added that a HelpLine number +91-96 1593 1593 was recently launched by the Foundation to assist the survivors in every way possible amidst this lockdown when the core team and volunteers couldn't be approached in person. Alok Dixit then elucidated upon how the Foundation reaches out to any person who is subjected to this heinous crime and ensures that they receive free medical treatment as per the Supreme Court directive of 2013. Chhanv assists the survivors and their families financially and emotionally, helping them with all that they may require.

Towards the end of the conference, Alok Dixit along with his colleague Ajeet Singh presented their concluding remarks by bringing to everybody's attention as to how the Foundation is in need of funds as both, the employment programmes and the medical assistance are suffering. They also requested the government authorities and various corporate entities to provide us with as much monetary support and resources as may be permissible in accordance with their policies for even a small assistance from their side can bring about a huge change in the society.

Link for the Fundraising Campaign: <https://bit.ly/supportsheroesincovid>

Link for the E- Press Conference: <https://youtu.be/-VrdMhYokV0>

**Regards,  
Alok Dixit,  
Director,  
Chhanv Foundation.**