

# Snapshot 2020

In the midst of the uncertainty brought on by the pandemic, CSJ found new ways to continue our work and thrive in the year 2020.

## Case Work



As part of our mission to provide psychosocial and legal support to child victims of sexual abuse, our casework team was referred 46 new cases in 2020, and continued support of 76 children. This included advocating for compensation for the child, advocating for conviction and opposing bail. Our social workers acted as support persons for all psychosocial needs, including helping families set up bank accounts, first response and support during investigations, child witness testimony preparation.

We continued working with Childcare Institutions, holding restorative circles and counselling children in conflict with law. Post the lockdown, our work spread to childcare institutions across the city and country. We began working in 5 institutes in Delhi, 2 in Rajasthan, 1 in West Bengal, and 1 in Maharashtra. We were able to present our work at various institutes and conferences such as National Law University in Delhi, the annual RJ world conference and Maynooth University Department of Law, Ireland. For the first time, CSJ participated in Restorative Justice Week, which is held from Nov 15–20 all over the world, by organizing discussions with RJ practitioners, and disseminating information through our social media channels. The webinars included one with Dr Carl Stauffer, who is the Co-Director Zehr Institute of Restorative Justice on working with the youth and community through a restorative lens. The second webinar—“Preventing and Addressing Violence against Children through Restorative Practices in Communities, Schools, and Child Care Institutions” included experience sharing of RJ Practitioners in India, with Belinda Hopkins, a pioneer of restorative practices in school settings, giving the keynote address.

## Restorative Justice



## Training and Outreach



With the lockdown and communication shifting online, CSJ was able to organise and facilitate many sessions and trainings. CSJ began a series of live training sessions on Facebook, in collaboration with India Alternative Care Network (IACN). CSJ directly trained over 200 frontline social workers through several virtual trainings on counselling skills and tools to work with children.

CSJ collaborated with Professor Ann Skelton, Member, UN Committee on the Rights of the Child, for a two-part webinar on child rights, litigation, and covid-19. CSJ also conducted workshops with school teachers across the country, in collaboration with Project CACA, to raise awareness and sensitisation with regards to the POCSO and JJ Acts and the role of educational institutions in reporting sexual abuse and rehabilitation of children who have suffered harm.

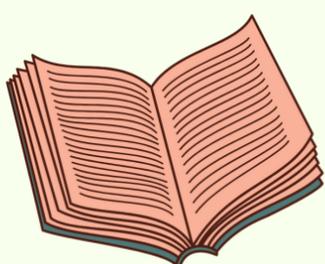
With the start of the lockdown and the urgency to reach out to children stuck in violent households, CSJ initiated a collaboration with Childline India, to offer psychosocial support to children in need. This partnership was then furthered as CSJ began to provide trainings on strengthening counselling skills as well as self-care for the workers of the Childline staff inclusive of Childline partner units, CIF and CCC staff.

CSJ was granted a six-month project by UNICEF Chhattisgarh to create a sustainable child protection model for child protection functionaries in the state, by equipping all stakeholders working with children with a better understanding on child rights, child protection and related legislation to provide child friendly interventions. In the latter half of the year, CSJ started taking trainings on the same, bringing together all governmental and non-governmental stakeholders in each district.

## Partnerships



## Research and Publication



“Bonds of Hope”, a report on CSJ’s work with children in Rajasthan’s observation homes was released. This project was developed as a collaboration between Department for Child Rights (“DCR”), Government of Rajasthan, UNICEF Rajasthan, and Counsel to Secure Justice (“CSJ”)