

## STORIES OF RESCUE & EMPOWERMENT

COUNTRY: INDIA • PROGRAM: INTERNATIONAL SAFEHOUSE

# Debi

Debi and her brother played in the streets while her mother sold herself from their home. Since she could find no safe place to study, Debi gave up her dreams of university. But before long, her mother's customers began asking for Debi. She searched and searched for a job just to escape. When she found Free Set, she was simply grateful for a safe haven away from home. Then Free Set helped Debi open a bank account and begin saving. With her salary, Debi began helping her mother. Then she met her future husband and began saving for a dowry. Now married, Debi soaks in the safety of her new family. With the help of our partners, she has been set free from a generational cycle of poverty and exploitation. She has been freed from her once-certain future in the sex industry. Instead of shame and fear, Debi now leaves a legacy of safety and hope for her family.



*For more stories of rescue & empowerment, please visit our story gallery at [www.warinternational.org/story-gallery](http://www.warinternational.org/story-gallery)  
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# FREE SET INDIA

Darkness settles over the dusty streets of one of India's largest red light districts. Here nearly ten thousand women "wait in line" to sell their bodies. Trapped within a cruel, exploitative business, many are trafficked from Nepal, Bangladesh, or rural India while others sacrifice themselves to feed their families. But one safehouse stands as a beacon of light, showing these women a path out of darkness and into lives of freedom and dignity. Free Set provides an alternative way for women from the sex trade to earn an income, training them to sew beautiful handbags from jute and recycled sari fabrics. The work is sometimes difficult, as many of the women have never learned to sew or even use scissors. Despite the challenges, Free Set has grown from twenty to over 160 women who are learning new skills in sewing, budgeting, reading, and writing. When you purchase these bags, you help free women from the darkness of the red-light district, empowering them to live with dignity and hope.

