

WALKING THE TALK: LET'S HELP HASEENA



The story of the acid attack on Haseena Hussain, published in *Marie Claire India* December 2006, has changed our lives. In response to overwhelming feedback from readers wishing to help her, we decided to start a relief fund for the 12 surgeries she still needs to be able to live independently. Now, to further our cause, some fashion designers and artists have come forward to donate their creations. Whether you simply send a cheque to the fund or buy any of these, you can help Haseena get a new life.

The anguish in Haseena Hussain's voice is almost too painful to bear. "I thought it was over, but the fear and the waiting has started again." Last year, when the Karnataka High Court sentenced her attacker, Joseph Rodriguez, to life imprisonment, Haseena and her parents thought justice - of some sort - had been served. Cruelly enough, the legal system that took seven years to punish Rodriguez has let him file an appeal - this time in the Supreme Court.

Haseena was 20 when Rodriguez, her former employer, drenched her in sulphuric acid for rejecting his advances. Today, she has lost her sight and has undergone 27 plastic surgeries. More remain, but there is no money left. She cannot move out of her home in Bangalore due to her disfigurement. The High Court had directed Rodriguez to pay her Rs 5 lac, but he paid only Rs 3 lac - which the court put in a fixed deposit for her. He will probably not pay the rest.

When *Marie Claire* carried Haseena's story last December, the response was overwhelming. Readers from across India expressed their concern, even sent money for her surgeries. To channelise these resources, *Marie Claire* and *Outlook* have set up a fund - 'Outlook Relief Fund A/C Haseena Hussain'. To kickstart this effort, every *Marie Claire* staffer will donate a day's salary. We will run the fund for six months; the money collected will be given to Haseena to enable further surgeries. Donations above Rs 2,000 will receive a special mention in *Marie Claire*.

Remarkably, Haseena has not lost hope. She wants to work. "If someone can fund my daily travel to and from my house, I can go out," she says. She is afraid, too. "When people see my face, they should not be disturbed. They should not hurt me," her gentle voice trembles. Her case will now take even longer to be finally settled but there, she is steadfast. "The truth will win. That is all I can dare to believe."

**MONTH 5
JUST ONE MORE
MONTH LEFT TO GO
TO HELP HASEENA
HUSSAIN. SPARE A
THOUGHT**

SEND YOUR DONATIONS IN THE NAME OF 'OUTLOOK RELIEF FUND A/C HASEENA HUSSAIN'

JOIN IN OUR EFFORTS: Mail your cheques or drafts to Marie Claire, Outlook Group, 8th Floor, Nafed House, Ashram Chowk, New Delhi 110014. Donations made to Outlook Relief Fund are received u/s 80G of the Income Tax Act, 1961 and eligible for deduction vide notification No. DIT (E)2004-2005/0-93/99/1785 dated 23.09.2004 valid from 01.04.2004 to 31.3.2007 (renewal applied for and pending). For queries or to offer Haseena a job, mail marieclaire@outlookindia.com or call (011) 43538200

HELPLINES FOR ACID ATTACK VICTIMS: Criminal Justice Initiative (CJI), AHMEDABAD: 079 27475815 ■ CJI, ALLAHABAD: 0532 2623893 ■ Campaign and Struggle against Acid Attack on Women, BANGALORE: 094484- 44252 ■ Samvaad, Chandigarh: 0172-543689 ■ CJI, CHENNAI: 044-42165131 / 42165121 ■ CJI, HYDERABAD: 040-27661883 ■ Pratyasha, KOCHI: 0484-2239 0680 ■ Aastha, KOLKATA: 033-24970155 ■ CJI of HRLN, MUMBAI: 022-23439651 / 23436692 ■ Maadhyan, NEW DELHI: 011-24324503 ■ CJI, THIRUVANANTHAPURAM: 0471-22460652

BUY ANY OF THESE DRESSES OR PAINTINGS AND HELP RAISE FUNDS



MANISH ARORA
PRICE: Rs 35,000
Size: Small



GURPREET FLEMING
FOR BIAN
PRICE: Rs 7,625
Size: Medium



RAVAGE BY RAJ SHROFF
AND NEETU GUPTA
PRICE: Rs 12,000
Size: Small



NANDITA BASU
PRICE: Rs 9,500
Size: Small



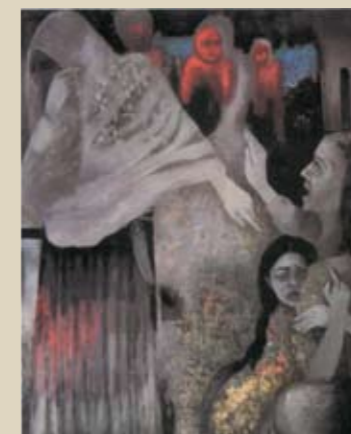
ROHIT BAL
PRICE: Rs 18,000
Size: Small



DEV R NIL
PRICE: Rs 10,000
Size: Small



RAJESH PRATAP SINGH
PRICE: Rs 22,000
Size: Small



HUMAN TRAFFICKING
by SAMITA BASU
PRICE: Rs 45,000 Size: 36" x 48"



BLESSINGS
by GIRIJA MIRCHANDANI
PRICE: Rs 30,000 Size: 31" x 25"

Purchase any of the outfits or paintings featured here, and help further the cause. (One dress by Zubair Kirmani has already been bought!) The entire amount will be credited into Haseena's account to enable further surgeries.

If you want to buy any of these, call us at 011-43538200 or 011-43538080, or e-mail us at marieclaire@outlookindia.com mentioning the piece you are interested in. Our representative will coordinate your purchase with the artist or designer concerned. Your cheques have to be made out to 'Outlook Relief Fund A/C Haseena Hussain'.