

## **Frequently Asked Questions**

### **Why didn't I know about this before?**

We have written to all individuals that we have listed as affected via their last known contact address. We apologise if this hasn't reached you. We also regularly update our website ( [www.paperboatcharity.org.uk](http://www.paperboatcharity.org.uk) ) and send out our e-newsletter "Waypoint" to subscribers (you can sign up on our website to receive these - [www.paperboatcharity.org.uk/get-involved/newsletter-sign-up/](http://www.paperboatcharity.org.uk/get-involved/newsletter-sign-up/) ).

### **Where can I learn more about current programmes?**

Visit our website [www.paperboatcharity.org.uk](http://www.paperboatcharity.org.uk) for more information on current programmes, and you can follow partners directly on social media at: [www.facebook.com/cedarindia](http://www.facebook.com/cedarindia)

### **What was the safeguarding audit, and why did it matter?**

The safeguarding audit in 2018 was carried out on request of the Trustees of the charity (then the Joe Homan Charity) in response to failings at a partner organisations which resulted in the preventable death of a child. The Board recruited a top independent consultant to carry out an in-depth audit of all the Charity's partner organisations in India.

### **Which partners has the charity stopped working with and why?**

Since 2018 the charity has been reviewing programmes and partnerships to ensure that we are acting in the best interests of young people at the margins, and in line with best practice. As of 2022, Paper Boat (formerly JHC) no longer works with BTS, ISS, MSGH, SPPD or KKBT.

Communications that you may have missed, pertaining to individual partner organisations are available on the supporters page of our website ( [www.paperboatcharity.org.uk/who-we-are/supporters/](http://www.paperboatcharity.org.uk/who-we-are/supporters/) )

### **Why has the charity changed its name?**

The Joe Homan Charity (JHC) launched "Paper Boat" as a new working name in February 2020, with the name formally adopted at our AGM in December 2020. The document below outlines some of the considerations that our voting members considered before passing the special resolution: [Why rename – now is the time](#)

### **When will my donations change?**

If you give via standing order, we cannot change your instructions to your bank. If you choose to continue donating, Paper Boat will use the funds for ongoing projects that support marginalized children in India unless we hear otherwise.

### **What happens if I no longer wish to support the charity?**

If you no longer wish to support the charity you are at liberty to cancel your standing order whenever you wish to. We would thank you for your support of our charity and children in India and would be very grateful if you could let us know how you wish us to treat any withheld funds. Please see attached form (can be downloaded from the Supporters page on our website - [www.paperboatcharity.org.uk/who-we-are/supporters/](http://www.paperboatcharity.org.uk/who-we-are/supporters/) ).

### **What if I believe I've already communicated my decision to the charity?**

All those who responded were given an opportunity to change their instructions and notified that any changes to future giving must be done via your own banks. If you were not aware that you were continuing to give to the charity and wish to change or cancel your standing order, please contact your bank to do so.

### **What does this mean for the children?**

When we wrote out to supporters in 2019 we informed:

We understand that many of you have been sponsoring these children for a long time and may have developed a friendship or even been to visit them personally over the years. Understandably you will be concerned as to what this means for your sponsored child, and we want to assure you that that has been at the forefront of our minds throughout these negotiations. We provided the CWC, DCPU and other relevant authorities with the most up to date sponsorship lists that we currently have, and have requested their assistance with helping us to identify the current status of these children on a case by case basis. This is an official investigation, and we must respect that whilst we can make requests the authorities are not obliged to furnish with any details, particularly if they do not see disclosure as in the best interests of the children.

Since then, in the state of Tamil Nadu the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights, have called for all children who do not need to be in residential care to be returned to their families (as reported in The Hindu article *NCPCR directs 8 States to send children in child care homes back to their families* – which is available on our website).

### **Can I continue to communicate with/send funds to the child I had been sponsoring?**

Going forward, Paper Boat will not be able to facilitate any communication with individual children.

### **Can I send money directly to historic partners?**

We would not recommend sending money directly to BTS. The Charity Commission of England and Wales advised us against sending money to an organisation that is not compliant with local laws, particularly where the local law we are referring to is one that sets out basic minimal requirements for child protection and quality of care.

### **Can I still sponsor a child at a different organisation?**

If you only wish to support a child within a residential setting, you can restrict your donation to our long-term partners at the Dindigul Aids Control Society (DACs).

DACS is a government approved 'last resort' residential care provider. This is because the children are either orphans or have been abandoned by their families and are all affected by HIV/AIDS.

### **Did you try to work with historic partners to improve?**

Yes. Paper Boat offered support to each partner to present a workable plan to respond to the recommendations of the Safeguarding Audit.

### **Why are community-based projects better than orphanages?**

Most children in orphanages and homes are there due to poverty, with support they could be with their own families. Poverty does not remove their right to be cared for and loved within their own family. No mother should have to send away the daughter she loves because other people have more money than she does; no child should be isolated and torn away from their family in order to receive an education. Government schools are free in India, and although they are far from perfect, the standard of education is improving and is equal to the standard provided in homes such as BTS. Working with and within communities enables those facing poverty to secure better futures without separating families. Please do take a moment to look at some of the many videos and resources that speak to this, and if you have a child of your own, take a moment to think about how you would feel as a parent if you were forced to make that choice.

## **What do other organisations say?**

On the 18th December 2019 all 193 member states of the United Nations adopted the 2019 Resolution on the Rights of the Child and called on States to transition away from the institutionalisation of children and redirect resources to family and community-based care. This recognizes the responsibility of States to support and strengthen families, so that poverty is never the reason to separate a child from their parents. This echoes what is already law in India and the UK, that residential care for children should be a last resort only. This places the onus on small charities like us, that have traditionally supported residential welfare programmes, to reconsider how we operate in light of the evidence of recent decades and this mandate from the UN.

### **Responses from other charities to the momentous decision by all 193 member states of the United Nations adopted the 2019 Resolution on the Rights of the Child:**

**Save the Children:** “The charity welcomed a ground-breaking decision by all 193 UN members states in New York today. By adopting a Rights of the Child resolution unanimously, they committed to gradually end support to orphanages and similar institutions, and instead focus on family and community-based care for children.”

<https://www.scoop.co.nz/stories/WO1912/S00138/save-the-children-welcomes-un-general-assembly-decision.htm>

**Hope and Homes for Children:** “Today, for the first time ever, all 193 member states of the United Nations have formally recognised that orphanages don’t protect children, they harm them, and have called for the progressive elimination of institutional care globally.”

<https://www.hopeandhomes.org/news-article/unga/>  
<https://www.hopeandhomes.org/our-story-detail/>