

Photo Exhibition

SHEROES

A look at acid attacks survivors

MAKING HERSTORY
TOGETHER, WE ARE.

Wishfulsmiles
Healing Hearts through Helping Hands



Foreword

“A Look at Sheroes” is a photographic exhibition aiming at raising awareness about acid attacks and changing the look at acid attacks survivors. This work is around Sheroes Hangout, a café in Agra entirely managed by acid attacks survivors, which are supported by Chhanv foundation, a Delhi-based NGO.



Rupa, womenswear designer

Stop Acid Attacks/Chhanv foundation

Chhanv foundation is a pioneering grassroots NGO founded in 2013 based in Delhi. They provide legal advice and psychological support to acid attack survivors and run campaigns (Stop Acid Attacks), workshops and trainings to positively change the condition of women in India.

They have set up Sheroes Hangout, founded in Agra in December 2014, the first café in India run by acid attack survivors. It hosts a handicraft section, a library and clothes designed by one of the acid attack fighters. They are planning to open more cafés, one in Lucknow and one in Rajasthan, some of the most affected areas by violence against women, and an international hub. By allowing the girls to stand on their own, not ashamed of their scars, they tell a powerful positive story of dignity and independence.

Chhanv foundation does not receive any funds from the government and finds itself in a precarious situation as most of their activities are crowdfunded.

<http://www.stopacidattacks.org/>

<http://chhanv.org/>

<http://sheroeshangout.com/>



About the pictures

Most pictures have been shot with a medium telephoto lens at a very wide aperture. This technique leaves a razor-thin depth of field, keeping only selected elements out of the blur. The scars remain visible but are not a point of focus anymore. Using black and white removes any distraction from the eyes, smiles and other expressions that mirror the soul and heart of the subjects.

The work is the result of a close relation to the acid attacks survivors built through weeks. The photographer learnt Hindi almost single handed four months prior to his travel and took pictures only at the very end of his stay. This philosophy reflects on the visuals the humane connection which naturally emerged.



The photo exhibition comprises 10 portraits of acid attack survivors from an original perspective. The aim of this exhibition is to make people see beyond the scars and feel an emotional connection to the subjects.

Organisers



Light Inc. is an European think/act tank researching and promoting traditions building a sustainable social harmony. Its main goal is to restore and safeguard a humane meaning in a pluralistic modern society, through education with an emphasis on arts and media content. Light Inc's work includes research, observation, analysis and writing of reports, and sharing of experiences through photography, films and discussions.

<http://light-inc.org/>



Wishful Smiles is a London-based charity working on International projects with the world's most disadvantaged and underprivileged by providing financial and material aid. Wishful Smiles launches local campaigns and community projects in the UK to teach charity work and promote equality and diversity for the public. Wishful Smiles acts as a resource for young people by providing advice, assistance and organising programmes of physical, educational and other activities, encouraging them to get involved in charitable work.

<http://www.wishfulsmiles.com/>



Making Herstory is a women's rights organisation that tackles the abuse, enslavement and trafficking of women and girls. They focus on three areas: campaigning, lobbying and highlighting issues of gender-based abuse and the trafficking of women and girls; providing financial support and resources to women's shelters; and providing 1-to-1 intermediary / referral support to women and girls in need.

<http://makingherstory.org.uk/>



BARBEDOUN is a pop-up bar and creative collective based around diasporic cuisine and culture. The travelling bar explores the alchemy that emerges from a displaced sense of culture, through experiences crafted around the things we enjoy: drinks, food, music and art. BARBEDOUN's events and projects reflect a nomadic approach to cuisine and culture, whilst also providing space for creative and caffeinated endeavours, including live music, performing arts and visual exhibitions.

<http://barbedoun.com/>

Specifications

Organisers: Light Inc., Wishful Smiles, Making Herstory, BARBEDOUN.

Pictures printout

20"x30" – matte – foam mounted – 11 pictures.

Contact details

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Complementary pictures

