

INDIA'S  
*Vanishing Girls*



ADF INDIA

*In India, over 2,000 girls  
are killed in the womb every  
day. ADF India launched the  
Vanishing Girls Campaign  
to counter the practice of sex  
selective abortions and show that  
all girls across India need love,  
care, and an equal opportunity to  
experience all that life has to offer.*

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# The Problem

Every year in India, girls are killed in the womb simply for being girls. 12 million girls have gone missing in the last three decades.

Most females in India are considered a burden on families and have little or no value. The practice of killing girls in the womb is now routine. For every 1,000 male births there are only 918 female births.

Existing laws were enacted to stop sex selective abortions, but enforcement of these laws has been feeble. Even with the Pre Conception Pre Natal Diagnostics Techniques (PCPNDT) (Prohibition of Sex Selection) Act, 1994, through 2017, there had been only 449 convictions in a nation of 1.2 billion people.

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# The Solution

The Act provides for the prevention of the use of pre-natal diagnostic techniques for the purpose of pre-natal sex determination leading to sex selective abortions.

We are calling on Indian states to effectively implement this law in three ways:

1. **Constitute State Inspection and Monitoring Committees** for checking the activities of ultrasound facilities indulging in advertisement of services and/or determination/revealing of the sex of the foetus.
2. **Appoint special public prosecutors** to ensure that perpetrators are effectively prosecuted under the PCPNDT Act.
3. **Increase the frequency of inspections** of all diagnostic laboratories by State Inspection and Monitoring Committees.



## Other Ways We Respond



## Training Allies, Raising Awareness

ADF India is also building a broad coalition of allies to eliminate the practice of sex selective abortions, and discrimination and violence against women.

So far, we have:

- Mobilized over 200 allied lawyers and law students to respond to issues of life and family.
- Conducted over 20 trainings on the equal dignity of men and women since 2016 with partner organisations.
- Organized outreach programmes for National Girl Child Day and International Day of the Girl Child which call for an end to sex selective abortions.
- Coordinated the Won by Two Conference focusing on the equal dignity of the sexes and addressing the practice of sex selective abortions in the Christian community.
- Gathered Inter-Faith Leaders who released a joint statement against the practice of sex selective abortions.

## **Pledging to End Sex Selective Abortions**

The Vanishing Girls campaign asks individuals to sign a pledge committing to do their part to end the practice of sex selective abortion.

The signer commits to:

1. Honour and respect girls and women and strive to ensure that sex-selective abortions are not conducted in their families and among their friends.
2. Stand up for the women in their families so they can have an equal share in the resources of the family, including their legal inheritance.
3. Stand with women and girls as they exercise their fundamental freedoms and rights guaranteed under the Constitution of India.
4. Recognise that men and women are equally deserving of respect and opportunities in families, places of work and society.







# Our Commitment

ADF India is committed to cultivating a future in which human dignity is affirmed for all people—men *and* women. Thus far, the campaign has impacted over 15,000 lives.

The Vanishing Girls Campaign aims to:

- Build a board coalition of active and vocal allies that advocates for constitutional values protecting on the equal dignity of men and women
- Eliminate the practice of sex selective abortions
- Build a network of lawyers and law students who are dedicated to on the equal dignity of men and women and working towards eliminating discrimination and violence against women.

## *Three Ways to Get Involved:*

### Pray

*PRAY* for the elimination of the practice of sex selective abortions in India.

### VanishingGirls.in

*SIGN* the pledge.  
Add your voice to the 3,000+ individuals committed to the equal treatment of girls and women in India.

### Give

*MAKE* a financial contribution to support the Vanishing Girls Campaign.\*

\* For Net banking/Online transfer:

**Account Name:** Alliance Defending Freedom India Trust. **Account Number:** 913020024770979.

**IFSC Code:** UTIB0000824. Bank Name: Axis Bank, Lajpat Nagar II, Ring Road, New Delhi.



**NEW DELHI** (*Registered Office*)

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(Legal Aid Centres)



**ADF INDIA**

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