

NGOs in Kashmir (2001)

I am indebted to Yogi Sikand, from the University of London, for this useful list:

SOME SOCIAL WELFARE AND RELIEF ORGANISATIONS IN KASHMIR

The Jammu and Kashmir Yateem Trust, Maisuma, Gowkadal, Srinagar, Kashmir 190001 [Telephone Number: 0194-475114]

This trust was set up in 1972 by the famous Kashmiri poet and writer Tak Zainagiri. Its declared objectives are the welfare of orphans, widows, and destitute, the aged and the disabled. At present it takes care of 40 orphaned children, providing them all basic facilities including food and education. The children are housed in an orphanage, the Gulshan Mahal Hostel. The trust has recently acquired 11 kanals of land at Gopalpora, where it plans to set up an orphanage and school for girls. Its other activities include providing interest-free loans to poor families to set up small businesses and arranging for the marriage of girls from poor families. Most of its staff work on a voluntary basis.

Society for Human Welfare and Education, Silk Factory Road, Solima, Srinagar, Kashmir 190009.

This society was set up in 1941, and is one of the oldest social welfare organisations in Kashmir. Its primary objective is providing education to children from poorer families. It also provides education and training to handicapped people to enable them to be emotionally and economically self-reliant. It runs the English-medium Modern High School at Solima, with classes from kindergarten to the matric level. The fee is highly subsidised, and most of the 700 girls and boys enrolled in the school come from poor families. The society also runs a special school for deaf and dumb children, from nursery to the eighth standard, after which they are admitted to the society's regular school. These children are also trained in crafts such as tailoring, embroidery, short-hand and typing. The society has a home for the blind, where some twenty children live and are provided education, boarding and lodging free of cost. They are taught through Braille and are also trained in various crafts.

Home for the Disabled, Near General Bus Stand, Pulwama, Kashmir.

This organisation is actively involved in providing relief, rehabilitation, education and training to disabled and handicapped people. It was set up in 1983.

H.N.S.S. De-Addiction Hospital, Mir Masjid, Khanyar, Srinagar [Telephone Number: 0194-450976].

In recent years the incidence of drug abuse and addiction has increased alarmingly in Kashmir. This organisation is doing pioneering work in the field of de-addiction. It was set up in 1996 by a couple, Dr. Ghulam Nabi and his wife Dr. Hameeda Jan. Till date it has treated some 150 persons.

Jammu and Kashmir Hussaini Relief Committee, Alamgiri Bazaar, Srinagar 190001, Kashmir.

The Hussaini relief Committee was established in 1972, and has a long record of serving the needy irrespective of caste and creed. It has some 800 volunteers in different parts of Kashmir, through whom it implements its relief programmes. It regularly organises blood donation camps throughout Kashmir, the blood being provided to victims of violence and the injured. It has arranged for some 14800 units

of blood for needy people till date. It also organises free medical camps in the towns of Kashmir and the interior and relatively inaccessible rural parts of the state.

Jammu and Kashmir Children's Welfare Society, Dukani-Sangeen, Khanqah-i-Mualla, Srinagar, Kashmir.

This organisation was set up in 1997 in order to provide free education, medical care and financial assistance to poor children. At present it has adopted 250 needy children, including several orphans, whom it gives free education to.

Yateem Welfare Society, Pulwama, Kashmir.

This organisation was set up in 1998 in order to render assistance to widows, orphans and the destitute. At present some 25 orphans are provided free education and food by the centre.

Students' Helpline, 3rd floor, Butt Complex, Madina Chowk, Gowkadal, Srinagar, Kashmir Email address: studentshelpline@usa.net This organisation was set up in 2000 in order to provide free information and career guidance to students and financial assistance to needy students. Some 30 poor students, including several orphans, are being provided scholarships by the centre.

United Mission Foundation for Kashmir, c/o Arjimand Hussain Talib, 211 Patlipora [Bala], Chhatabal,, Srinagar, Kashmir-190010 [Telephone number: 0194-476367/478344. Email: ahtalib@usa.net]

This organisation was set up by a group of students in 1998. Its main activities include running a free public library, promoting educational awareness and providing career guidance to students. It has a research wing that focuses on social, educational, economic and cultural issues related to Kashmir.

Shah-i-Hamadan Educational Trust, Pampore, Kashmir.

This organisation runs a religious school [madrassa] and an English-medium school in Pampore. Some 40 children study at the madrassa, where they are provided free education, boarding and lodging. Many of the 350 students studying at the trust's English-medium school are orphans or come from poor families, and they are given free education.

Firdous Educational Trust for Orphans, Bazaar, Batamaloo, Srinagar, Kashmir.

This organisation was set up in 1994. Its current chairman is Mr. Qiser Ali Shah. Its major aim is to provide for the education of orphaned children and to provide them with technical skills in order to help them earn their livelihood. It also arranges for the marriage of orphaned boys and girls. At present, some 200 orphans receive free education here, and the organisation meets their expenses for books, stationery, uniforms, etc.. Funds for this programme come from contributions of members, who number 225.

Imam Hussain [Aleih Salam] Foundation, 8/3 Polo View, Srinagar, Kashmir 190001. Telephone no.: 478053.

This organisation was founded in 1984. It started with the Hussaini Blood Bank and then, in 1989, it set up the Imam Hussain [Aleih Salam] Hospital at Bemina, Srinagar, which is today housed in a three-storeyed building. The Foundation also runs the Aga Sayyed Mahmood Memorial Nursing Home and a medical college. Free medical

facilities are provided to people in need, irrespective of caste and creed. So far, the Hussaini Blood Bank has provided more than 4000 points of blood to people injured in firing and accidents. It organises free medical camps in far-flung areas of the state, including at Sunni, Shia, Sikh and Hindu religious shrines.

Ahl-i-Bayt Tahreen, Budgam, Kashmir.

Set up as a trust in 1993 by Dr. Nisar Ali Jan, this organisation arranges for free medical camps in the valley. It has some 500 volunteers, who regularly donate blood to the blood banks at the SHMS and Lal Ded Hospitals in Srinagar. It is now constructing a hospital at Budgam, although the pace of construction has slowed down due to shortage of funds, being wholly dependent on public donations.

Mothers' and Women's Welfare Society, Kursu, Rajbagh, Srinagar, Kashmir.

Telephone no.: 426159.

This organisation was set up by Ms. Mahjabeen Kamli in 1988, with the aim of working among poor women and children. It is presently running a craft centre for women at Dal Gate, Srinagar.

Jammu and Kashmir Muslim Welfare Society, Chhanna Mohalla, Chattabal, Near Bemina Crossing, P.O.Box 625, Srinagar, Kashmir. Telephone no.: 471707, 450212. This organisation was founded in 1982, and is presently running an orphanage, where 20 children are provided free education, boarding, lodging and clothing. Some widows are also provided small monthly stipends. An estimated 130 girls from poor families are being trained in various crafts at centres run by the organisation. In order to generate funds, the organisation runs a telephone booth and a book-shop. Funds come from public donations and from contributions from the over 200 members of the organisation.

New Kashmir Women's and Children's Welfare Society, Bazaar, Batamaloo, Srinagar, Kashmir.

Established in 1990, this organisation aims at working among women and children from poor families. Its founder and present secretary is Ms. Mahjabeen Butt. At present, the Society is running a crafts' training centre at Chattabal.

Jammu and Kashmir Imamia Hospital and Trust, Shalimar, Srinagar, Kashmir 191121. Telephone no.: 462079, 461646.

This organisation was set up by Mr. Zakir Muhammad Rasul in 1999. In 2000, it set up a temporary OPD clinic at Shalimar, where many poor patients are provided free medical assistance. Funds are generated from public donations and from a team of 31 members. The organisation also has 200 blood donors. Plans are afoot to set up an 8-ward and 72-room hospital in Shalimar soon.

Association of the Parents of Disappeared Persons, c/o Advocate Parvez Imroze, Lal Chowk, Srinagar, Kashmir.

Established in 1994 by human rights' activists, Parvez Imroze, the APDP investigates the cases of people who have gone missing in the current turmoil in Kashmir. It also investigates human rights' abuses.

HELP Foundation, Saida Kadal, Rainawari, Srinagar, Kashmir.

HELP [Human Effort for Love and Peace] Foundation was set up in 1997 by Ms. Nighat Shafi, and aims at helping the poor, orphaned children, widows and the disabled, in the form of education, training and medical assistance. Presently, it runs an orphanage where some 20 children receive free education, boarding and lodging. It runs several small schools, where most of the students come from poor families. It also organises free medical camps. It depends on financial and other help on the general public and its 18 volunteer members.

Hope, Behind SICOP Office, Boulevard, P.O.Box 656, GPO, Srinagar, Kashmir 190001.

This group, set up in 1999, is concerned with the protection of Kashmir's natural environment. It is presently working along with the Srinagar Municipal Corporation in a solid waste collection programme for the Dal lake, and also runs plantation programmes and environment awareness camps.

Zameenzad Public Library, c/o Irfan-ul Haq Hamdani, s/o Mr. Mohd. Sadiq Hamdani, 236 Khanqah-i-Mualla, Srinagar, Kashmir. Set up in 2000, this organisation runs a free public library. It plans to start a scholarship scheme for orphans as well as a documentation and research centre.

Jammu and Kashmir Educational Trust, Court Road, Lal Chowk, Srinagar, Kashmir. P.O.Box 519, GPO, Srinagar, Kashmir. Established in 2000, this trust aims at promoting education by setting up schools and vocational guidance centres as well as taking care of orphaned children. Presently, it runs a centre at Baramulla, where six orphan girls are looked after and are being educated.

Ya-Shaafi Physiotherapy Centre, Baba Demb, Srinagar, Kashmir. This centre provides free physiotherapy treatment to poor people in need as free wheel chairs and other such implements to the injured. It covers its expenses by operating on a commercial basis for other patients.

Green Kashmir, Near Nigeen Club, Nigeen, Srinagar. P.O. Box 987, GPO, Srinagar, Kashmir. Established in 1996, Green Kashmir is a registered trust working for the protection of Kashmir's environment. Its activities include creating public awareness of the need for environmental protection, undertaking plantation programmes and reforestation. It also operates a solid waste management programme at the Dal Lake in association with the Srinagar Municipality.

Dr.Qazi Nisar Islamic Institute, Islamabad (Anantnag), Kashmir. This charitable institute was established in 1970 by the late Dr.Qazi Nisar, the Mirwaiz of south Kashmir. Its aims include setting up schools, libraries and occupational training centres and to provide scholarships to needy students. Presently, it runs a high school in Islamabad (Anantnag) where some 1200 girls and boys, many belonging to poor families, receive education. It also runs the Islamic Research Institute, where some 80 children are enrolled for the Maulvi Alim and Maulvi Fazil courses.

Kanam's Charitable Trust, Lawaypora, Narabal, P.O.Mirgund, Kashmir. Established by Dr.Tahira Kanam in 1996, this trust works in the field of educational promotion. It runs a primary school with 130 children, most of whom come from poor families. Training in stenography, tailoring and various crafts is also provided.

Zanana Dastakari Production Markaz, Koolipara, Khanyar, Srinagar, Kashmir, 190003. Started in 1974, this organisation works among poor women, training them in various crafts such as carpet-making and embroidery. It has its own marketing facilities.

Friends Association for Ladies and Orphans' Welfare, Koolipara, Khanyar, Srinagar, Kashmir, 190003. This organisation, set up in 1997, runs an orphanage where some 15 children are looked after. All of them study at the high school at Khanyar. The centre provides them with free boarding and lodging, and meets their other expenses.

Canny Welfare Society, Court Road, Srinagar, Kashmir.

Started in 1999 this society runs a school, many of whose students receive free education. A special building has been constructed for children who are physically disabled. The society runs a tailoring centre for girls from poor families.

Cancer Society of Kashmir, 6 Gole Market, Karan Nagar, Srinagar, Kashmir.

Established in 1999 by Dr. Merajuddin, this society works to create awareness about cancer and detection of the disease. This it does through organising awareness programmes, seminars, booklets etc. Free cancer detection facilities are provided.

Jammu and Kashmir Yateem Foundation, Bait-ul-Hilal, 21 Gogji Bagh, Srinagar, Kashmir.

Set up in 1993, the Foundation runs an orphanage where 30 children stay and are provided with all facilities.

H.J. Women's Vocational Training School, Khanyar, Srinagar, Kashmir.

Founded in 1994, this organisation runs a tailoring and computer training centre, where 30 girls from poor families receive free education.

Maqbool National Welfare Association, Lambert Street, Near Bund, Kothibagh, Srinagar, Kashmir, 190001. Post Box 65, GPO, Srinagar, Kashmir 190001.

Established as a charitable trust in 1994, the MNWA's present activities include arranging marriages of girls from poor families, providing sewing machines to widows, extending financial assistance to the injured and physically disabled for artificial limbs, interest-free loans to victims of violence, and a scheme for a monthly stipend to widows who have lost their husbands in the on-going turmoil in Kashmir. The MNWA is constructing a modern educational institute and hostel for poor children.

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