

## GEETA'S STORY

# A WOMAN'S STRENGTH, A COMMUNITY'S HOPE

The brutalities of partition extend way beyond the violence in the immediate aftermath. They are deeply etched in the fabric of South Asian history and identity, leaving deep scars on the minds and hearts of millions. Even after seven decades, there are families that still yearn for a homecoming.

Geeta's grandfather was one such man. Radcliffe's careless lines tore through their farmland, splitting the family in two. Unable to abandon their only source of livelihood, Geeta's grandparents could only dream of reuniting with their loved ones. However, instead of giving into their circumstances, they raised their family with love and care, filling their hearts with the stories of the heartland.

After decades of struggle, they finally secured visas in 2017. Alas by then, Geeta's grandfather had already passed, never witnessing the homecoming he longed for.



Recounting their journey, a teary-eyed Geeta says, "It was his dream. He wanted to take us home, so we had to come." Today, she lives at the Signature Bridge Refugee Camp with her grandmother and four-year-old son, while half of their family remains in Pakistan, still waiting for their visas.

As one of the early arrivers, they lived in a makeshift shelter made of wood and tarpaulin, facing constant threat from snakes and heavy rains. Humanitarian Aid International supported Geeta's family, among 30 other families, to build a disaster-resilient shelter.

To have their own home in India was a dream come true for Geeta's grandmother.

In the years since, Geeta has emerged as a pillar of strength within the refugee community. She quickly adapted, learning Hindi to help fellow Sindhi refugees navigate their new reality. She accompanies them to hospitals and schools, ensuring they receive the support they need.

For HAI, Geeta is an invaluable community mobilizer, bridging the gap between our team and the community. She voluntarily oversees the education center, safeguarding the space where children come to learn and grow. Her belief in the power of education is unwavering:

**“The education center is doing so much for our kids. Supporting it means supporting the whole community.”**

Her young son actively participates in the center's programs, and HAI is working to get him enrolled in a nearby school. Thanks to our generous donors, HAI also subsidizes transportation for many children at the camp, ensuring they can pursue an education without any hindrances.

As a single mother and the sole provider for her family, Geeta has taken charge of her future with unshakable determination. The resilience of Geeta and her family is a testament to their unwavering spirit. Her grandmother reflects, “I learned Gurmukhi when I was still in India. Now, I am happy my grandson can learn much more. We left our house but we have found a home where our children can have a future of unlimited possibilities.”

Geeta's journey is far from over, but with the right support, she can build a stable future for her son. We thank our donors for making a difference in the lives of families like hers. You, too, can be a part of this journey. Through our 'Sponsor a Child' program, you can help Geeta's son-and many others-receive the education and opportunities they deserve. You can also contribute to the program, touching the lives of many more families through educational, skill-development, healthcare and legal support. Join us in creating a brighter future today.

**\*PSEUDO NAMES HAVE BEEN USED TO PROTECT THE IDENTITY OF THE COMMUNITY MEMBERS.**