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**Acid Survivors Trust International
Annual Review 2008**

Chairman's Report



I am delighted to report that all the Acid Survivors Foundations (ASFs) who we support continue with their first-class work of supporting the acid survivors. Their work has such a positive impact on people's lives – from helping survivors to rehabilitate physically and psychologically, to addressing the challenges of human rights abuse and gender equality.

ASTI has also taken another significant step forward in our development over the past year by strengthening our office staff and developing new administrative systems and procedures. This has enabled us to improve our support for acid survivors and the local ASFs. At the core of our ability to provide these desperately needed services are our dedicated group of expert volunteers who donate their time and resources. Not only do they work directly with the survivors to improve their lives, they also work closely with local staff to give freely of their knowledge, skills and experience so that once they return home the work can continue without them. And their support doesn't stop when they return home. The experts remain in contact with the overseas staff – answering questions and supporting them in their work.

We are beginning to see the first signs of local expertise at the ASFs having the capability to travel to ASFs in other countries to share their expertise and knowledge. This is a tremendous achievement for ASTI and our volunteers as it shows that not only are we having a dramatic, positive impact on the lives of survivors, but also changing the lives and capabilities of local practitioners and staff.

It is worth noting that this is only one aspect of the work that ASTI is able to carry out. Whilst it is very important to develop local capacity and sustainability it is also important to increase public awareness of acid violence. By improving public awareness at both national and international level it greatly assists the work of reducing the number of acid attacks. ASTI has a crucial role in coordinating the raising of public awareness of acid violence throughout the world.

Whilst 2008 has seen significant progress in our ability to assist acid survivors there is still so much more to do. It bears repeating something I noted last year in this report: 'the tragedy is that as ASTI becomes more effective and better known, the requests from other countries to help acid survivors increases.' If we are to meet these requests we need all the support we can get from donors, from individuals and from volunteers willing to assist in our work.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "J. P. Morrison". The signature is written in a cursive style with a small dot above the 'i'.

Dr John Morrison, OBE
Chairman, ASTI



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Annual Review 2008

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ASTI: Positive Prevention, Rebuilding Lives

Acid Violence

Acid violence is a form of premeditated violence, usually against women, involving throwing corrosive acid at the face of the victim. The intent behind the attacks is to permanently scar and disfigure. Acid violence rarely kills but always destroys lives, often young lives.

Survivors of an acid attack, even if they are able to get good and prompt medical attention, will for the rest of their lives be confronted with permanent scarring and disfigurement. All too often they then have to cope with social isolation and ostracism which further undermines their self-esteem and confidence. Therefore, the trauma is not only physical, as the brutal injuries incurred resort to relentless psychological, social, and emotional distress.

ASTI is committed to helping those who survive the experience of an acid attack.

Acid Survivors Trust International (ASTI)

Acid Survivors Trust International (ASTI) exists to provide a centre of worldwide expertise in identifying, treating and rehabilitating survivors of acid and burns violence – while helping to prevent, and ultimately see the end of acid and burn violence in the world.

We are a UK based charity that supports organisations working in countries where there is a problem of acid violence. With our local partners, the Acid Survivors Foundations (ASFs) and Acid Survivor Charities, we have been working for over ten years to support the survivors of acid violence and reduce the incidents of acid attacks.

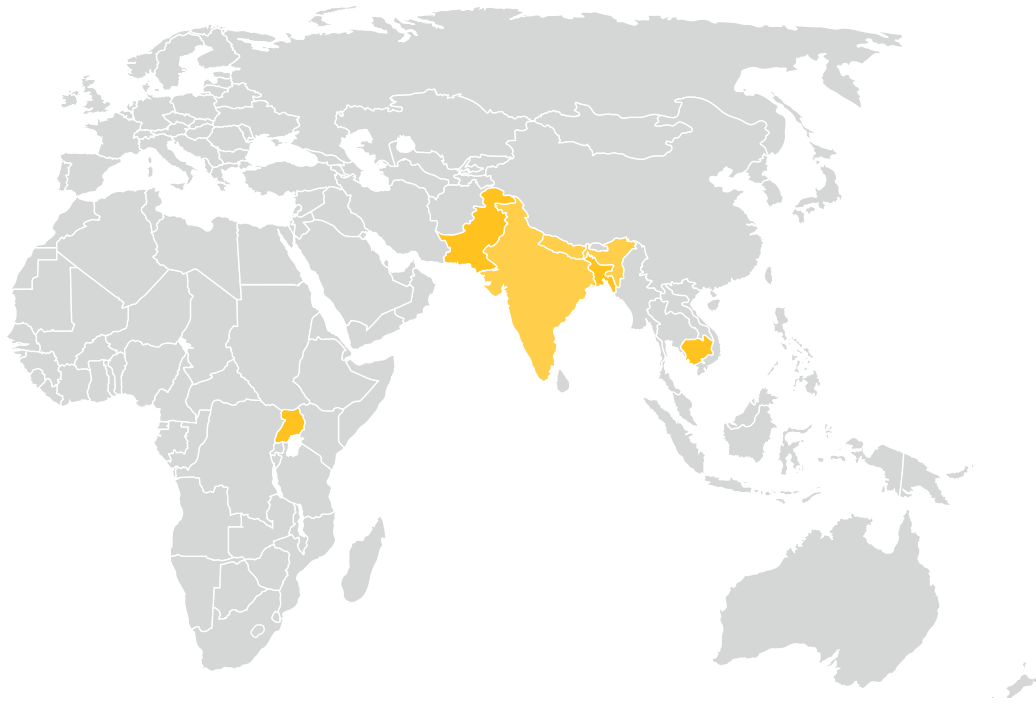
Our approach is to help local practitioners and survivors to help themselves. For example, ASTI's teams of volunteer plastic surgeons, nurses and physiotherapists not only treat the survivors but also work with the local staff to enhance their knowledge and skills.

Throughout the ASTI/ASF network, we encourage and coordinate the interchange of experience and ideas. ASTI promotes best practice, the sharing of lessons learned, and the monitoring and evaluation of the effectiveness of treatment.

While ASTI supports ASFs with pump-priming in the initial stages of setting up an organisation, all the partner foundations have so far managed to secure enough funding themselves to continue their operations. We continue to work with the staff in each ASF to enhance their management and fund raising expertise – ensuring that they develop effective, sustainable organisations.

The Acid Survivors Foundation (ASF) in Bangladesh, our longest running partner, is an excellent role model. They have been very successful in reducing the incidence of acid attacks, treating survivors, changing laws and societal attitudes.

ASTI is the only organisation dedicated to addressing this grave abuse of human rights in an international context. We have a committed team of expert volunteers who are working to ensure that effective resources are available to support survivors in their journey, and that the human rights and dignity of survivors are upheld.



'ASTI's vision is of a world that believes in the equality of all people and when the limited occurrences of burns violence do occur the survivors are supported and rehabilitated to lead healthy and rewarding lives.'

Acid Violence: A Global Phenomenon

Acid violence is a world-wide phenomenon, most significantly occurring in poor countries where the rule of law is weak and where policing and judiciary systems are inadequate. Due to improved media coverage, attacks have been reported in Laos, China, Japan, Ethiopia, Nigeria, Kenya, Mexico, Jamaica, Guyana, Algeria, Afghanistan, Iran, Greece, Turkey, Australia, and the UK. ASTI has also received appeals from individuals in Vietnam and Sri Lanka who have been attacked and are requesting assistance.

It is a common misconception that acid attacks are exclusive to the Indian sub-continent, or that attackers are Islamic fundamentalists punishing women for behaving outside the realms of what is considered as "modest" behaviour. On the contrary, research indicates that attacks are being carried-out by many different nationalities and are not limited by race, religion, creed or location.

Although the situation differs from country to country, women are frequently the main victims – often as a result of social inequalities. Whatever the reason, attacks are an imbalanced and extreme response and the result of acid thrown on faces and bodies is always catastrophic.

ASTI will continue to promote and raise the profile of the existing international network of Acid Survivor Foundations while investigating the need for future charities in other countries. However, funds are scarce, information about the scale and nature of attacks is often anecdotal, and more work is needed to enhance our global network of support.

Acid Survivors Foundation (ASF) / Acid Survivors Charity

ASTI's goal is to help establish local organisations in countries where the prevalence of acid violence is particularly alarming. Based on the remarkable success of the ASF in Bangladesh which was set-up in 1999, ASTI has since initiated and facilitated the developments of organisations and there are now similar NGOs in Uganda, Cambodia, and Pakistan. The in-country organisations are run by social activists, who link with other relevant national and international movements. Foundation's in India and Nepal are in the preliminary stages of being set-up.

The mission in these organisations is to aid the recovery of acid attacked survivors to a condition near as possible to that of their pre-attack situation by enabling survivors to access medical treatment, rehabilitation, counselling, justice and other support during their reintegration into society and afterwards. Simultaneously, the organisations functioning at a grassroot level work to prevent further acid violence by lobbying for legal reform and by advocating for change in societies attitude in the stigmatisation of women, men and children affected by acid violence.

Achievements & Highlights in 2008

During the past year our focus has been on (i) furthering our ongoing support to acid survivors and ASFs, (ii) developing a network of expert partners, & (iii) continuing to develop and maintain ASTI as a sustainable, healthy organisation.

Survivors & the ASFs

- The fledgling ASFs in Nepal and India have been officially registered as NGOs / not for profit organisations. They are embarking on innovative pilot programmes to support local survivors of burns related violence.
- ASTI recruited and funded the year-long assignment of a development manager for Cambodian Acid Survivors Charity responsible for managing costs, improving fund raising and supporting acid survivors.
- Specialist Teams are now in place and have made vital visits:
 - The Burns Rehabilitation Team – worked with survivors and local staff of ASFs in Bangladesh, India and Pakistan.
 - The Surgical Team – re-constructive surgery performed while working with, and training, local surgeons and staff in Bangladesh and Cambodia.
 - The Management Support Team – an experienced fund raiser visited ASF-Uganda to help with local fund raising. The ASTI team provided ongoing support with management reporting, setting up websites and producing materials for awareness raising.
 - A fourth specialist team - the Psycho-social Rehabilitation Team is currently being set up with the help of experts from the ASFs in Bangladesh and Pakistan. This is an excellent example of South-South cooperation, with the intention that in the future all the specialist teams will be predominantly made up of ASF team members – ASFs helping ASFs.

Developing a Network of Expert Partners

- The specialist teams are working very well and have been extremely well received by the local ASFs. Twice yearly follow-up visits will help embed and enhance local learning and expertise. The local ASFs will be further supported by providing them with on-line reference materials and forums for the ASF staff/specialists to exchange ideas and best practice.
 - Our plan is to link each team with specific sources of funding. For example, The Kirby Laing Foundation provided funding for the visit of our Burns Rehabilitation Team to Bangladesh, India and Pakistan.
- Through the generosity of an individual donor we have been able to make key changes to the website. This has enabled us to provide reference materials and forums for the ASF staff and specialists (see above).
- We continue to collaborate with the charity Interburns in their work in primary burns care where resources are limited.

ASTI : Sustainable & Healthy

- In 2008 we received significant donations from private individuals and Trusts for which we are very grateful. In particular, we received the second tranche of the £120,000 grant (over three years) from the Joffe Charitable Trust. This covers the cost of ASTI's part time management team and has been absolutely critical in the development of ASTI.
- While we have been successful at raising key funding requirements we will need to significantly increase our activities in this area. To this end, we have set up a fund raising team that will drive the generation of the necessary financial support for ASTI and provide expertise and training for the ASFs. This team, made up of trustees, our part time staff and volunteers, is working hard to develop ongoing sources of support.
- ASTI produced its first Annual Review in 2008. As a comprehensive overview of ASTI, the 2007 Review has been a vital tool in letting our donors know what we have achieved and how their funds have been put to work.
- The urgent need to improve public awareness of acid violence has led us to create the part time post of Communications Officer. This has not resulted in additional staff costs. The role is now responsible for gathering and distributing information, communicating with existing and new individual donors, and developing campaigns and fund raising events to enhance public awareness of acid violence.



Your support in 2008 made it possible to enhance the rehabilitation of survivors and expand our international network of Acid Survivor Foundations. Your support has tilted the balance in favour of those that you may never meet, but who will never forget your help.

ASTI's Activities Planned for 2009 - 2011

Over the next three years we plan to focus on specific initiatives that will help us to achieve our overall vision. They include:

1. Further developing in-country capacity to rehabilitate survivors by creating/ supporting specialist teams to visit the ASFs. The specialist teams will:
 - Visit each local ASF in the ASTI network twice a year
 - Provide relevant and accurate reference materials on the ASTI website for the ASTI/ASF network
 - Participate in ASTI/ASF on-line forums – responding to questions and providing further useful information and contacts.
2. Increasing public awareness of acid violence, working towards its elimination, and providing expert advice by:
 - Researching and sharing reliable information to bring the issue of acid violence to broader public scrutiny and reduce the incidents of acid attacks
 - Mobilising our supporters to address the challenges and causes of acid violence
 - Organising events and producing material for on-line media, broadcast media, and marketing
 - Coordinating public awareness initiatives across the ASTI network to raise awareness about the physical, psychological and social challenges faced by acid survivors.
3. Developing and maintaining ASTI's capacity to provide the services outlined above by ensuring that the necessary resources and processes are in place. This includes:
 - Maintaining sustainable funding for our charitable activities and core costs
 - Developing and maintaining an engaged, long term group of specialist volunteers
 - Developing and maintaining long term relationships with partner organisations
 - Maintaining good governance.

Naila Raza, aged 19, an acid survivor who poses after having eye surgery in Islamabad. She was burned six years ago at age 13, attacked with acid after she rejected the sexual advances of her school teacher. Naila is from a small village in southern Punjab, and has no choice but to travel great distances to get the medical care she needs for her eyes.

Nitric or sulphuric acid has a catastrophic effect on human flesh. It causes the skin tissue to melt, often exposing the bones below the flesh, sometimes even dissolving the bone. When acid attacks the eyes, it damages them permanently. Many acid survivors have lost the use of one or both eyes.



Specialist Teams

ASTI has developed the concept of expert specialist teams in order to share knowledge and skills with in-country practitioners. Areas of focus will range from medical and psycho-social to legal and management support. The ultimate goal is that ASF staff will make up the majority of the teams, sharing their experience and skills through sustainable networks of expertise that span nationalities and cultures.

Burns Rehabilitation Team

Burns therapy plays a key role in the physical rehabilitation of survivors of acid attacks – it is involved from early interventions to long term rehabilitation. It is also a multidisciplinary approach that requires the participation of nurses, physiotherapists, doctors and any other staff who are in contact with patients.

The Burns Rehabilitation Team is currently a collaboration of burn specialists from the UK consisting of burns therapist Fiona Procter, physiotherapist RuthAnn Fanstone, and burns care nurse Marianne Carter. Team members volunteer their free time to progress this important work and the visits made within the past year have had an immense, positive impact on the survivors they have treated and the staff they have supported.

Thanks to the generous support by the Kirby Lang Foundation, ASTI was able to deploy the team members to make project visits to Bangladesh, India and Pakistan. These visits have enabled the team to:

- Work closely with staff in the assessment and treatment of the survivors.
- Share their skills and experience in training sessions with the staff and other local practitioners.
- Broaden their experience of ASF facilities and philosophy.

It has been essential throughout the team's work that the local staff can relate to their message and eventually improve their skills in the burns treatment provided to survivors.

The team's work is seen as an ongoing process rather than a one-off event. ASTI is developing a training package which will be available online at the ASTI website and in other formats for easy access. The team (or individual team members) will also carry out follow-up visits so that working relationships can be developed and implementation of training and advice can be maximized. This will help the local staff to enhance their newly learned skills, whilst producing long term positive results.



Surgical Team

For the past ten years ASTI Trustee Dr. Ron Hiles has been volunteering his plastic surgery skills to the staff and survivors of the ASF in Bangladesh. Dr. Hiles has trained a generation of plastic surgeons and has volunteered his holidays for the past two decades helping Bangladeshi burn victims to rebuild their lives. Over time this work has expanded out to Cambodia and India with the help of many other surgeons (including specialists at the Prince of Wales Hospital at the Chinese University of Hong Kong).

ASTI is now developing a more coordinated approach to this work and we expect to create opportunities for local ASF surgeons who are now in a position to share their skills and expertise with others this interchange of medical best practice is instrumental in restoring the quality of life of many survivors.



Psycho-social Rehabilitation Team

In addition to the medical support required, most acid survivors face major psychological and social obstacles in returning to their communities. Most of the ASFs are providing this support and ASTI is currently developing a Specialist Team that would act as an additional resource by encouraging knowledge sharing and skills transfer.

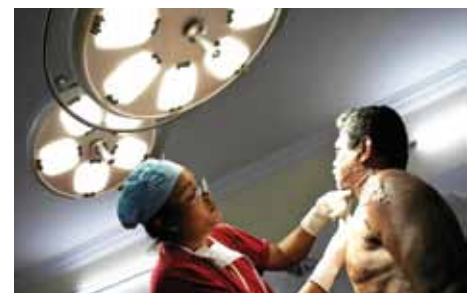
The first stages in the development of this team are under way with the visit of an ASTI Trustee to the ASF in Bangladesh. This will help us develop the new team and clarify the volunteer expertise required.



Management Support Team

The ASTI team, staff and trustees, have been actively supporting the in-country management of the ASFs. This has ranged from the initial set-up of the ASFs, to helping to address specific challenges faced by the managements and boards. For example, a trustee travelled to an ASF to help develop their fund-raising capacity while another trustee helped work through board issues of another organisation.

We are now in the process of consolidating this work by creating a more consistent team. This will include identifying other outside volunteer experts who can contribute to this work.



Acid Survivors Foundation Bangladesh

Achievements

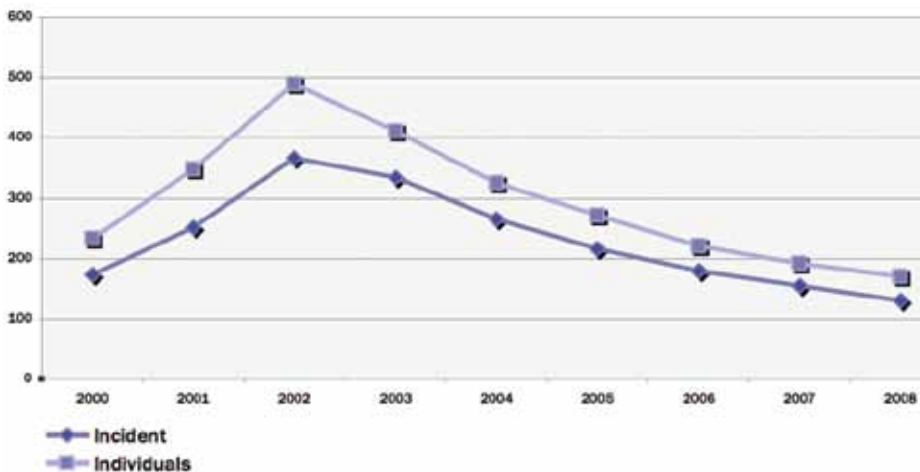
Since beginning its campaign against acid violence in 1999, the Acid Survivors Foundation (ASF) in Bangladesh has trekked quite a distance.

Sustained decrease in the number of attacks and heightened awareness among masses speak of its onward march of progress. The partner NGOs are playing a more active role, the government organs have been dedicating more time and compassion to the cause, and institutions and individuals coming forward to help the survivors rehabilitate all bear testimony to the campaign's coming of age. In the initial years, the Foundation wrestled with an alarmingly high rate of acid violence. Then the tide began to turn in 2003 when the incidence started to drop.

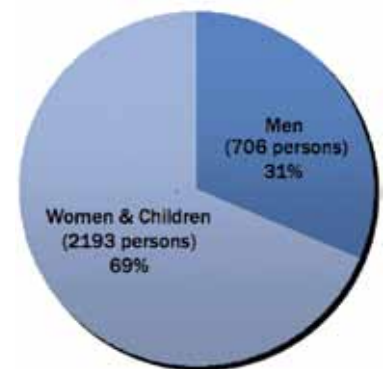
In 2008 (January – December), 171 persons were attacked by acid in a total of 131 incidents. The downwards trend of attacks and incidents have taken place since 2003: the number decreased yearly by 16% in 2003, 21% in 2004, 16% in 2005, 19% in 2006, 13% in 2007, and 11% in 2008.

Last year, the National Acid Control Council, Department of Social Services and Police Headquarters played a robust role in dealing with the acid violence. ASF Bangladesh has worked closely with them to review rules, policy and procedures having a bearing on the acid survivors.

Acid Attack Trend 2000-2008



Gender Perspective 1999-2008



Rehabilitation Services

As part of its rehabilitation programs, ASF Bangladesh arranged stipends for the survivors to continue education, on-the-job training and skills development courses to find jobs, and participate in income-generating schemes to earn a living. Job placement remained a key area of work for ASF as well as giving support and financial assistance to a number of affected families.

Because of back-to-back floods and Cyclone Sidr in 2007, ASF had to go beyond its current scope of activities. After the floods came Cyclone Sidr, wreaking havoc on the coastal districts on November 15th. Like millions of others, acid survivors too had to face the wrath. They lost houses, means of livelihood, standing crops, livestock and daily necessities like cooking pots, clothing and so on. Immediately after the disaster, ASF undertook an assessment program to know the real extent of damages that acid victims had suffered and acted upon the findings immediately.

Focus Areas for 2009

- Establishment of a new complex for the ASF: a building where all acid victims are provided with comprehensive services to rebuild their lives.
- Community based Psychosocial Services.
- Development of local level facilitator groups to work on conflict resolution with psychosocial aspects.
- National conference of the survivors.

Survivor Story Bangladesh Nila

Young bride Nila had her dreams shattered the night her husband threw acid on her face, hands and other parts of the body. The barbaric act landed the critically injured 18 year-old girl in a hospital bed at ASF Bangladesh leaving her clueless as to why the man who tied the knot with her only a year ago could do such a thing.

“It wasn’t for dowry and we didn’t even quarrel with each other. I know he is a short-tempered man. He got angry with me for some reason, but I don’t understand why”, said a baffled Nila while groaning with agonizing pain in her bed. This teenage schoolgirl from Sirajganj had a passion for performing arts and cherished a dream of becoming established in the field someday. This talented performer used to win awards from her school every year for her outstanding performance in acting, singing, poem recitation and dance.

“I woke up around midnight and found my husband sitting on a chair with his eyes bloodshot out of anger. I asked him what had happened, but no response. He just walked up to me with a glassful of liquid and poured it down over my head”, Nila said reminiscing the dreadful night.

Her parents had arranged the marriage with Saudi Arabian expatriate Akber Hossain, aged 30.

“The man to whom we handed over our beloved daughter with the hope that he would nature her dream, has shattered it instead”, Nila’s mother said with a blank look.

“Nila came to our hospital in a critical condition with deep burns that involved her vital organs. Although we work with a lot of acid victims, we’ve seen only a few patients with such major burns” said Dr Sanjoy Biswas of ASF, Bangladesh.



Cambodian Acid Survivors Charity (CASC)

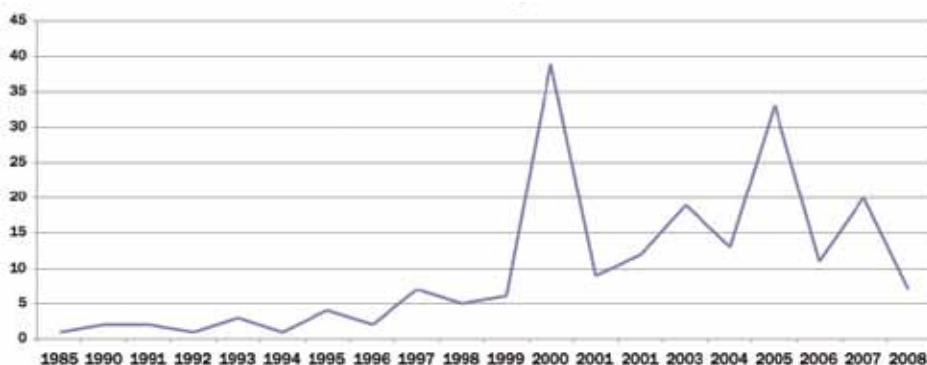
Achievements

CASC is currently the only dedicated facility in Cambodia dealing exclusively with issues of acid burns and acid attacks. Short and long term support includes comprehensive medical care, physiotherapy, counseling, vocational training, family support and social integration programs provided in a secure, non-judgmental environment. A total of 195 survivors are currently registered with CASC. To curb social marginalization and encourage survivors to support one another, popular monthly support group meetings are held which cover a variety of topics including the danger of illegal migration and human trafficking.

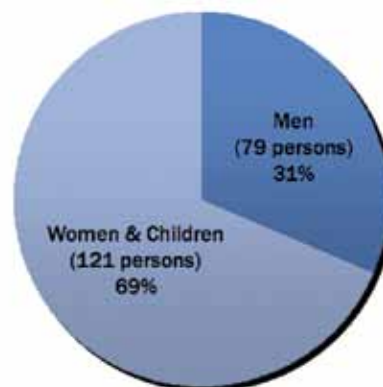
In 2008, CASC continued providing educational support material to children affected by acid violence. Vocational training programs for survivors resulted in employment in the fields of food preparation, security and maintenance. To heighten awareness of services offered by CASC to a wider population and to encourage notification and referrals, links have been established with other non-governmental organisations, especially those working in rural provinces.

CASC has been accepted by the Cooperation Committee for Cambodia and profiled in the Directory of International Development Assistance in Cambodia. CASC has also joined MEDICAM, the main network of organisations working on health issues which promote advocacy and provides an interface between these organisations and the Royal Cambodian Government. Despite CASC's best efforts, legislation and legal action against perpetrators of acid attacks is in its infancy in Cambodia. 2008 also saw CASC establish a partnership with a law firm which now provides free legal aid to survivors and their families and has resulted in criminal convictions and financial settlements to survivors.

Acid Attack by Year



Gender Perspective 2006-2008



Rehabilitation Projects

Successful income generating projects in a country with high rates of poverty presents a challenge. This is compounded by the high level of illiteracy among survivors, especially those from rural areas. CASC has attempted to overcome this problem by organizing volunteers who offer conversational and written English lessons to survivors. 'Kanya Massage', the main income generating operation for survivors, provided a professional service and was popular with a growing number of clients, however was not sufficiently profitable and was closed in 2008.



This business venture did, however, provide an opportunity for survivors to learn business skills, gain confidence and interact positively with the larger community. Survivors, some of whom are blind, have been trained to crochet handbags marketed under 'Babs' (Bags by Acid Burn Survivors), a successful project which continued in 2008. 'Babs' bags are marketed on site and at the National Centre of Disabled Persons retail outlet in Phnom Penh with all profits paid directly to the survivors. During 2008, survivors received training in jewelry construction using recycled materials and attended personal development workshops utilizing creative arts. With the help of the Peri-Urban Agricultural Centre, a pilot agricultural project was begun to grow herbs and vegetables on the grounds of CASC.

Focus Areas for 2009

- Expand networking with existing non-government organizations to disseminate information regarding CASC's services to remote rural areas. This will aid with notification and referrals to the Centre.
- Improvement of regular patient follow-up for the efficient provision of medical and other care.
- Emphasis on fundraising to ensure CASC's continued sustainability.

Survivor Story Cambodia Chenda

Chenda left school at a very early age in order to find work and eventually she moved to Phnom Penh and found work in a restaurant. Thirteen years ago she met a local businessman and together they had 3 children. As it happens, in 2004 he developed a relationship with a Cambodian woman living in France and left Cambodia and moved overseas. During a visit back to Phnom Penh, he informed Chenda of his new relationship and warned her to be careful due to his new wife's jealousy. After his return to France, Chenda was riding a motorcycle with her 3 year old daughter and 11 year son when she was stopped by a group of four men who called out her name. As she turned to respond, acid was thrown onto Chenda and her children.

Chenda and her two children received preliminary treatment at a local hospital but because of the serious nature of their injuries they underwent extensive surgical procedures in Vietnam. On her return to Cambodia, Chenda and her daughter were referred to CASC. The attack left Chenda blind, disfigured and suicidal and her 3 year old daughter greatly disfigured. CASC organised further surgery and regular physiotherapy for both children as well as extensive counseling for Chenda. With the help of CASC, free legal aid has been organised and three of the attackers have been arrested. Rehabilitation will be slow for this family; however, with the help of CASC, Chenda is more hopeful of the future and feels more confident about caring for her children.



Acid Survivors Foundation Pakistan

The year 2008 has been a very challenging year for ASF-Pakistan as it was necessary to consolidate positive beginnings as well as to develop a turning point strategy to strengthen action to ensure that more and more acid survivors would have access to medical help, psychological, legal, and socio-economic support.

Many difficulties emerged during the second part of the year: the Pakistani and American response to talibanisation in Swat increased the terrorist activities in Pakistan, and reactivated certain radicalisms (some Taliban activity in Punjab threatened to attack girls/women who would not practice pardah or cover their head and hence ASF-Pakistan field officers were also at stake), Benazir Bhutto's assassination, and the political havoc that followed disturbed the Pakistani soil and environment, and therefore ASF-Pakistan's action in terms of advocacy/lobbying and fund raising was gravely damaged. Nevertheless, ASF-Pakistan did not give up, and the organisation has achieved significant results in the path towards elimination of acid violence in Pakistan. The results that the organisation has achieved during the past 18 months can rightly be claimed as a Pakistani success story.

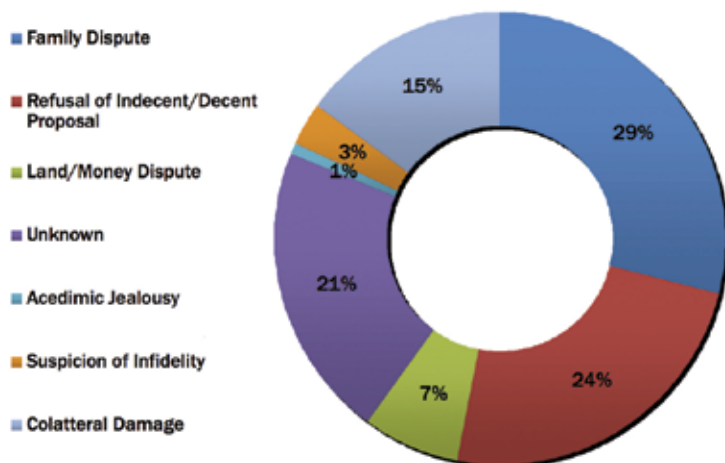
ASF-Pakistan has shown adequate progress and achievements include setting up an operational Nursing Care & Support Unit, improving the referral system of patients/survivors, and increasing the number of patients treated by the ASF-Pakistan Nursing Care & Support Unit.

Nursing Care & Support Unit, and Notification Unit

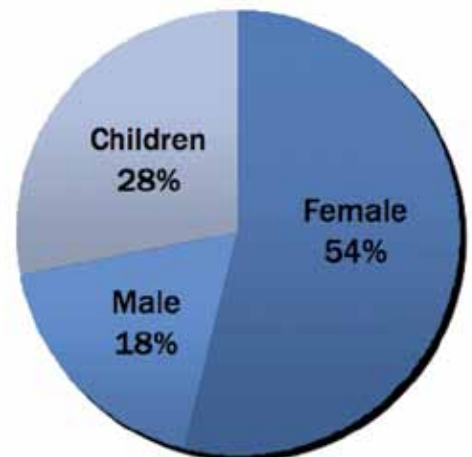
Between January 2007 and June 2008, the Nursing Care & Support Unit has administered:

- 143 performed surgical interventions
- Treatments to 68 patients
- Psychological follow-up for all the patients, and psychiatric treatment given when required.
- Notification of 133 patients
- Systematic maintenance of patient case studies, documentation and records.

Reason for Attack



Gender Perspective of Patients
2007-2008



Furthermore, one of ASF-Pakistan's modest achievements has been the friendships evolved amongst acid survivors. They have created a strong network amongst themselves, and call on each other at times of need to empower and support the other. The dedicated staff and volunteers working with ASF-Pakistan have given these survivors the encouragement to what looks to be the start of a blossoming and strong, collective of confident survivors.

Due to extensive campaigning and awareness raising interventions in 2007, ASF-Pakistan has begun to mobilise a collective response to acid attacks against women, men, and children in Pakistan. Nevertheless, ASF-Pakistan desperately needs to establish a legal unit as the notification system is now showing a lot of emergency acid attacks. ASF-Pakistan is trying its level best to make the Pakistani government acknowledge the problem of acid violence and take some action to combat it, to create new laws, and to implement these laws.

Focus Areas for 2009

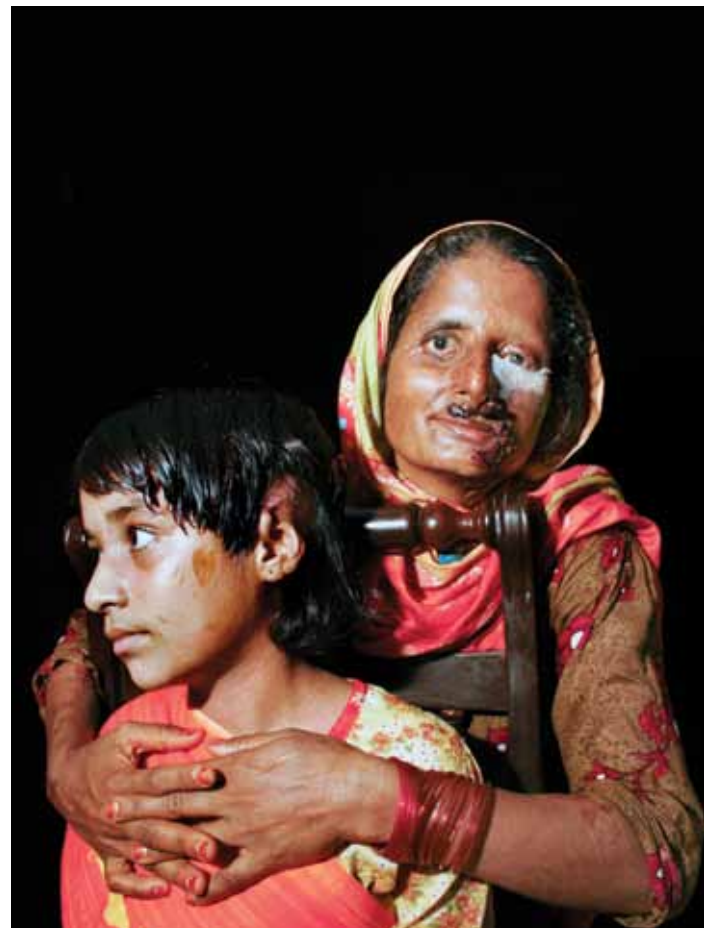
- Monitor acid sale distribution, lobby the government of Pakistan to eradicate acid violence and advocate for perpetrators to be brought to justice.
- Offer first-aid training and sensitization at local level with training taking place at various health units. This has been made possible by funding received from the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).
- Double the rate of socio-economic rehabilitation amongst survivors and expand networking amongst international psycho-social burns rehabilitation practitioners.
- Place emphasis on fundraising to ensure ASF-Pakistan's continued sustainability.

Survivor Story Pakistan Haleema

38 year old Haleema Bibi was a housewife with 5 children living in the remote village of Jatooi in southern Punjab of Pakistan. On 2nd September 1997 at 4am, while Haleema was sleeping beside her 8 year old daughter – Kauser Bibi – an unfamiliar criminal attacked and burnt Haleema with acid.

Her face and arms were badly burnt and the ear of her daughter was completely burnt. A First Information Report (FIR) was registered and both mother and daughter underwent treatment for a while but due to lack of money, they could not continue their treatment.

Haleema had only one dream: she wanted to become a proactive housewife and mother again, capable of preparing chapattis and parathas for her family. The contracture she had to her eye and elbow stopped her from doing these activities. She spent nearly a decade with such painful contractures. Fortunately, Haleema was then approached by ASF and finally admitted to the ASF for medical rehabilitation. She received a range of successful surgical procedures including the reconstruction of her damaged eye-lid, elbow, nose, lip and mouth. After these surgical interventions she could fulfil her dream and is now a very happy woman. She comes regularly to visit the ASF and encourages the new patients when they arrive. Also, her daughter Kauser Bibi is now able to wear earrings in her left ear that was constructed.



Acid Survivors Foundation Uganda

Achievements

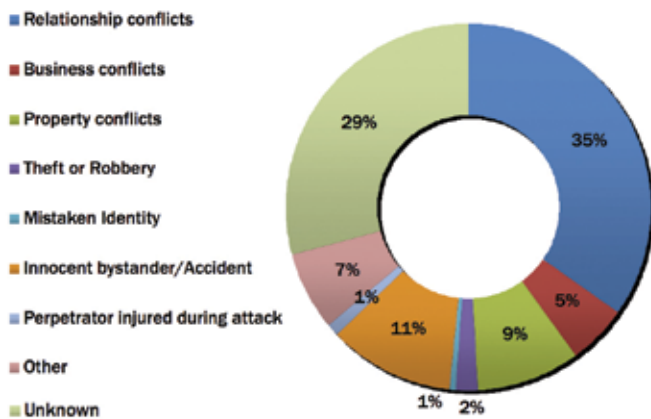
ASF Uganda (ASFU) is the first and only organisation in Uganda working solely in support of persons attacked with acid. Acid violence is, regrettably, a growing concern in the country. Since its inception in 2003, ASFU has continuously registered progress in rehabilitating and reintegrating survivors of acid violence within their communities.

Within the past four years the organisation has been directly involved in improving access to medical services, counseling service, community sensitization programs that address attitude change, training of stake holders, empowering survivors economically, providing legal aid and lobbying for a law on controlling acid sale and distribution.

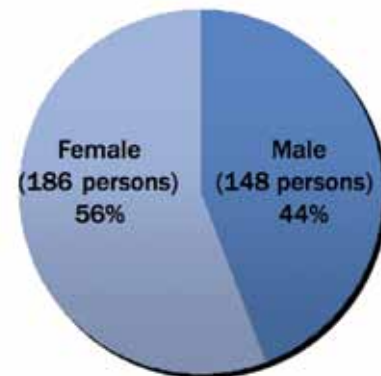
In Uganda, thanks to the work of the ASFU, there have been improvements in attitudes towards the survivors in their communities. As a result of home visits to the survivors by ASFU, community education on issues relating to acid violence, and the reduction of impact of disfigurement through pressure garments and surgery, the survivors are more accepted and respected in their communities. This has also been achieved through constant publicity campaigns and awareness raising.

With the good will from partners, both local government and the NGO body plus the communities in which ASFU work, there has been increased efficiency in program implementation. It is through such partnerships that a substantial difference can be made to the lives of those attacked and towards the ultimate elimination of the misuse of acid.

Reason for Attack



Gender Perspective of Patients 2003-2008



Participation & Involvement of the Survivors

The Pressure Garment Unit project started with a dual aim of promoting self-sustainability of the organisation as well as empowerment of survivors. When the Pressure Garment Unit was started, survivors were trained to make the pressure garments. This has helped to build self-esteem among the survivors and promote peer counselling for those that are employed at the unit and those that come to the unit. As the only Pressure Garment Unit in Uganda, the pressure garments provided to acid survivors have greatly reduced swelling of scars and improved scar management. The presence of the survivors at the Pressure Garment Unit has provided a source of livelihood for the survivors employed, awarding skills in tailoring medical garments, with developed knowledge in burns management and business skills. The Unit has also shown how instrumental survivors are in offering peer counselling to survivors who come to the unit.

It is through the involvement of the survivors that the organisation started widening its scope. After one of the survivors had succeeded in accessing justice, due in large part to her knowledge of legal procedures and her financial ability, she felt it was important for the organisation to start a legal aid clinic where survivors who are not in the position to follow up their cases can be supported to access justice. Since the legal department began its work 2005, 12 cases have been concluded, 32 cases are in court and 34 are under investigation.

Focus Areas for 2009

- Campaign further against acid violence in Uganda by promoting alternative conflict resolution measures, lobbying and advocating for policies related to elimination of acid violence, and to develop and implement public awareness campaigns.
- Build up a centre for information on acid violence in Uganda, and to manage and share this information.
- Build capacity of service providers to be able to meet the rehabilitation needs of acid survivors as well as ensuring access to justice through legal aid services.

Survivor Story Uganda Daniel

Daniel Nyanzi, a resident of Nateete suburb in Kampala District, at an active age of 40 faced a mishap that will forever haunt his life. Nyanzi, an heir to his father's property, got into a land wrangle with his siblings who wished to sell the family land. Several attempts were made to convince Daniel to sell but he refused stressing that the land would be useful for the children in future. In July 2007 Daniel met his attacker who turned his life around.

After the acid attack, Nyanzi was admitted in Mulago hospital for 11 months. Nyanzi was abandoned by his sisters, who before the attack had lived with him, and his wife also abandoned him after several threats from Daniel's relatives. It's only his elder son (Allan, 20 years old) who chose to stand by his dad.

As a result of the attack, Daniel became severely disfigured, lost sight, couldn't carry on with his farming and his family was disintegrated. ASFU and Mulago Hospital have made an effort to support Daniel in medical rehabilitation and psychosocial aspects. However Nyanzi's case is heartbreaking compared to other victims, as his healing has been very slow, his family has totally abandoned him and he is left at the mercy of his son Allan who is struggling to be there for him amidst all challenges. Allan goes to town every morning in search of odd jobs to be able to earn a living for him and his father. He leaves Daniel securely locked in the house and curtains drawn to avoid relatives from finishing him off. Nyanzi's mother who has been blinded by old age has also been warned by the daughters not to go see Nyanzi in the house. The justice system of Uganda has not made it any easier and investigations are not yet concluded.

ASFU is hoping to relocate Nyanzi to a more peaceful and cooperative community. ASFU also wishes to involve his son Allan into an income generating project that will allow him to be financially stable and be there for his father.



Financial Report: Treasurer's Report

In 2008, ASTI raised £94,036 in restricted and unrestricted funds which was only £8,000 short of our target set at the beginning of the year. Given the sharp economic downturn in the last two quarters, we consider this a strong performance.

It was also another successful year in managing our expenditures. While it was necessary to make two unforeseen grants to ASF-Pakistan and the ASF in Bangladesh, we were able to keep unrestricted expenditures well under budget. ASTI office and staff costs were well contained to budget.

Overall, our total reserves at 31st December 2008 were down by £38,045 when compared with 2007 primarily due to the additional grants paid to ASF-Pakistan during the year. These grants from restricted funds were expected and reserves remained well within policy guidelines.

Fund-raising was successful with relatively little outlay primarily because of the extremely generous support of Joffe Charitable Trust; we received the second year tranche of its 3-year £120,000 grant. This has allowed us to continue to concentrate on increasing our capacity to support burns violence survivors in many areas of the world.

We are very grateful indeed for all the gifts and grants made to ASTI over the past year from individual donations, companies and other charitable trusts.

While we are satisfied with our revenues in 2008, we will now need to step up a gear and put more resource and energy into our fund-raising efforts if we are to take the next steps in addressing acid and burns violence around the world.

I would like to thank all those who have supported this work over the past year and very much hope that many more will be moved to do so in 2009.

James Partridge OBE
Honorary Treasurer

F.W. SMITH, RICHES & CO.
CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS

M.J. ROONEY
D.D.E. CRAWFORD
A.C. JACKSON

E.J. FURNISS – Consultant

18, PALL MALL
LONDON, SW1Y 5LU
TELEPHONE: +44 (0)20 7930 0833
FACSIMILE : +44 (0)20 7839 1320
-mail: Fwsr@fwsr.com

Independent Examiners Report To the trustees of Acid Survivors Trust International

I report on the financial statements of the Trust for the year ended 31st December 2008 as set out on pages regarding respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner.

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of financial statements. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for the year (under section 43(2) of the Charities Act 1993 (the Act)) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the financial statements (under section 43(3)(a) of the 1993 Act);
- to follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners (under section 43(7)(b) of the 1993 Act); and
- to state where particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the financial statements presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the financial statements and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the financial statements.

Independent examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

a) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:

- to keep accounting records in accordance with section 41 of the 1993 Act; and
- to prepare financial statements which accord with the accounting records and to comply with the accounting requirements of the 1993 Act.

have not been met; or

b) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the financial statements to be reached.

Martin J. Rooney FCA

REGISTERED TO CARRY ON AUDIT WORK AND REGULATED FOR A RANGE OF INVESTMENT BUSINESS ACTIVITIES
BY THE INSTITUTE OF CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS IN ENGLAND AND WALES

Statement of Financial Activities for the Year ended 31st December 2008

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	2008 Total	2007 Total
INCOMING RESOURCES				
Incoming resources from generated funds				
Voluntary Income				
Donations and gifts	21,520	5,591	27,111	12,273
Grants received	43,125	21,875	65,000	100,000
Investment income	1,029	896	1,925	2,697
TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES	65,674	28,362	94,036	114,970
RESOURCES EXPENDED				
Costs of generating funds				
Cost of generating voluntary income	16,599	-	16,599	17,702
Charitable activities				
Supporting the existing ASFs:				
- Costs of visits to assist in ASF activities	15,465	8,610	24,075	8,622
- Grants payable	-	68,613	68,613	28,710
Supporting the development of new ASFs	14,784	-	14,784	3,666
Governance Costs	8,010	-	8,010	5,248
TOTAL RESOURCES EXPENDED	54,858	77,223	132,081	63,948
NET MOVEMENT ON FUNDS	10,816	(48,861)	(38,045)	51,022
TOTAL FUNDS BROUGHT FORWARD	61,589	53,062	114,651	63,629
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD	£ 72,405	£ 4,201	£ 76,606	£ 114,651

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.

All incoming resources and resources expended derive from continuing activities.

Note: For a more detailed statement, including the associated notes, please contact ASTI.

Balance Sheet as at 31st December 2008

	2008	2007
FIXED ASSETS		
Tangible assets	214	331
	<u>214</u>	<u>331</u>
CURRENT ASSETS		
Debtors	-	1,062
Cash at bank	81,914	116,185
	<u>81,914</u>	<u>117,247</u>
CREDITORS: Amounts falling due within one year	5,522	2,947
	<u>76,391</u>	<u>114,320</u>
NET CURRENT ASSETS		
	<u>£ 76,606</u>	<u>£ 114,651</u>
NET ASSETS		
FUNDS		
Unrestricted Funds	72,405	61,589
Restricted Funds	4,201	53,062
	<u>£ 76,606</u>	<u>£114,651</u>
TOTAL FUNDS		

Note: For a more detailed statement, including the associated notes, please contact **ASTI**.

The ASTI Team

- **Trustees**
- **Part-time office staff**
- **Partners**
- **Volunteers and supporters**
- **The ASFs abroad**

Trustees

- Dr. John Morrison OBE, founding director of Bangladesh Acid Survivors Foundation, is our Chairman.
- Dr. Kate Young (Vice-Chair) founding director of Womankind Worldwide and treasurer of Widows Rights International has a distinguished career in development studies, in social welfare and rights issues in the developing world.
- Mr. Ron Hiles OBE, MBChB, FRCSEd, FRCS (retired consultant plastic and reconstructive surgeon) has been visiting Bangladesh for over 20 years, operating on acid survivors and providing training to Bangladeshi plastic surgeons.
- Col. Paul Pettigrew, former regional director of British Executive Service Overseas, has wide experience of charitable work and of recruiting and training volunteers.
- Professor Richard Taylor of the University of Cambridge has contributed to the development of community education in both the developed and developing world.
- Mr James Partridge OBE, DSc (Hon), FDSRCSEd (Hon) is founder and Chief Executive of Changing Faces, the leading UK charity supporting and representing people with disfigurements.



- Mrs Fawzia Samad has worked with the Asian Family Counselling Service as well as with the Foreign and Commonwealth office where she helped British nationals who were taken overseas to be forced into a marriage.

- Mrs Moira Pool is an experienced consultant with a track record in Sales, IT, Fundraising and project management and has worked widely in the public, private and voluntary sectors.

Part-time office staff

- Rick Trask, Director, has a background in business – particularly in management, marketing and customer relations, and team and process development.

- Julika Niehaus, Fundraising Officer, has a Masters degree in Development Studies from the School of Oriental and African Studies, and has previous experience in working in the international development sector.

- Rajpreet Sandhu, Communications & Research Officer, has a Masters degree in Human Rights & Social Change from City University London, and has previously conducted research in the Punjab region of India & Pakistan.

Partners

Interburns & the British Association of Plastic Reconstructive and Aesthetic Surgeons (BAPAS).

Volunteers and supporters

Apart from the work done by the Trustees and staff, ASTI's work hinges very much on the fantastic support received by the numerous volunteers and supporters. ASTI's volunteers and supporters contribute enormously to reach ASTI's work in addressing the crime of acid violence. The contributed time and good-will has been most appreciated.

Many thanks especially to:

The Interburns team, Fiona Procter, Marianne Carter, Ruth Ann Fanstone, Jean Loncle, Dr. Cook, Lola Askarova, Mary Stephens, Angela Kiire, Tasleema Alam, Gurdish Haugsdal, Paula Bronstein @ Getty Images, Norma Corkish, and Bruce Richard and colleagues.



Contact Information

Acid Survivors Trust International (ASTI)

164 Vauxhall Bridge Road
London, SW1V 2RA

Telephone: +44 (020) 7821 1567

Fax: +44 (020) 7931 9337

Email: office@asti.org.uk

URL: www.asti.org.uk

Acid Survivors Foundation - Bangladesh (ASF-B)

House:12, Road: 22, Block: K,
Banani Model Town,
Dhaka-1213, Bangladesh.

Telephone: +88 (02) 9891314

E-mail: asf@acidsurvivors.org

URL: www.acidsurvivors.org

Cambodia Acid Survivors Charity (CASC)

PO Box 569

Phnom Penh, Cambodia

Telephone: +855 23 998077

Email: info@thecasc.org

URL: www.cambodianacidsurvivorscharity.org

Acid Survivors Foundation - Pakistan (ASF-P)

House 220, Street 18, Sector F-10 / 2
Islamabad, Pakistan

Telephone: +92 302 8558775

Email: office@acidsurvivorspakistan.org

URL: www.acidsurvivorspakistan.org

Acid Survivors Foundation - Uganda (ASF-U)

PO Box 2159

Kampala, Uganda

Telephone: +256 (0)41 542 037

Email: info@acidsurvivorsuganda.org

URL: www.acidsurvivorsuganda.org

Peyara (pictured) was attacked with sulphuric acid after refusing to have an illicit relationship with a man who was tutoring her young son. The incident left Peyara permanently blind in one eye and with extensive burn injuries to her head, face, shoulders, chest and back. Her son, who was beside her during the attack, was also severely burnt.

“When it happened I felt so helpless and would often think of ways to end my life. That was back then. ASF gave me leadership training and now I advocated on the acid violence issue. As time has passed I have found my inner strength and peace of mind”.

Photograph Copyright:

Jean Loncle @ jeanloncle-photos.com
Paula Bronstein @ Getty Images
Acid Survivors Foundation Uganda
Cambodia Acid Survivors Charity

Designed by:

Kunal Anand @ Cabein.com
With additional assistance from
Rajpreet Sandhu

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asti

Acid Survivors Trust International

164 Vauxhall Bridge Road
London, SW1V 2RA

Telephone: +44 (020) 7821 1567

Fax: +44 (020) 7931 9337

Email: office@asti.org.uk

URL: www.asti.org.uk

Registered Charity: 1079290