

# Next Generation Nepal

## History

In 2004, the founder of NGN, Connor Grennan, started his year-long travel around the world. He started off with 3 months in Nepal at the Little Princes Children Home, where he took care of 18 young boys and girls with several other volunteers. While there he soon realised that all of these



children actually had families in Nepal and that they weren't orphans at all. In 2006, he returned to the US to start a nonprofit organization dedicated to securing and protecting trafficked children from exploitation and abuse and reuniting them with the parents they had been taken from years ago. He soon returned to Nepal to set up NGN, he spent time moving the children from the Little Princes, into safe homes where he could take better care of them. During this time, he was horrified to discover that thousands upon thousands of children were abandoned and forgotten, left to survive with the bare minimum and sometimes even less.

## Volunteering (the negatives)

Many well-intentioned volunteers and donors, can without knowledge, fuel the profit-making orphanage trade. The money that many foreigners bring for these "orphanages" heightens the need for traffickers to separate children from their families. This is quite simple in the sense that if there is a need for something, then the production of this thing will increase as well, usually, this is good but in this case, it isn't so good.

In one case there was even a young girl who died from abuse after being too weak to walk to the bathroom and accidentally peed the bed. The caretaker of the children had on many occasions beat the children and even made them beat each other, this made most of the children too scared to say anything. This place was called Mukti Nepal There are many

examples of innocent volunteers who fall into this trap, luckily many of those volunteers who had this terrible experience chose to do something about this and joined organisations who helped children who were in this position.

## Ethical Volunteering

NGN the organisation that spoke to us regarding volunteering and trafficking children provided us with tips on ethical volunteering:

Do not volunteer at children's homes or orphanages

- The demand for more children in the orphanages in Nepal is increasing child trafficking
- Orphanages have become profit-making businesses to meet the expectations of the volunteers, not the children's

Before volunteering, adopt a "learning mindset"

- You need to change your whole perspective on volunteering and understand that you must learn from those you want to help
- By understanding their situation and their emotions you can learn and recognise what is best to help them
- Learning before helping is the smartest approach in this situation because the help that the children will receive will be focused and effective

Research ethical volunteering options thoroughly

- If you do wish to help (and not accidentally cause harm) then do not choose the first option that pops up, research and find something that will actually help communities

Consider the sustainability of the project you want to work on

- Consider the effect of your volunteering at this certain place in the long term
- Avoid choosing volunteering placements that will end up preventing a local person from doing that same job
- Consider how instead of just going volunteering and leaving, you could teach the locals your skill and have that be implemented in the future



Ask the volunteer agency lots of questions

- Before choosing a place to volunteer at, ask a lot of questions about the ethics of the volunteering and ask to be put in touch with previous volunteers who can give you a more realistic picture

Be an ethical tourist

- Spend money on goods and services that support local people and the local economy
- Talk with the local people regarding their lives and interests and share your experiences

Please remember that no matter how well or perfect everything might look on the outside you may never be aware of what goes on behind closed doors.