

Charity registered in England & Wales, No 1117526

October 1, 2012

Here is your copy of *The Bhopal Marathon*: the story of how for nearly three decades some of the poorest people on earth – sick, hungry, illiterate, without political allies or clout – have found themselves struggling for their basic human rights, and often their lives, against one of the world's richest corporations and its friends in the US and Indian governments.

It's an unequal and often hopeless-seeming struggle. The corporation and its allies have it all: wealth, influence, the ear of presidents and prime ministers, battalions of lawyers, PR flacks and billions to spend on advertising and sponsorship.

The nothing people have literally nothing. Yet, plunged into a nightmare of cruelty and pain so extreme that it almost defies imagination, the survivors, with the help of friends like you, opened their own clinics, brought healing out of horror, and returned good to others from the harm done to them. Their brave struggle for justice tells of a better side to human nature, of compassion, fellowship, laughter and the healing power of love.

This is a big document - it has to be to cover almost thirty years in any meaningful depth. We could not have afforded to publish it had not the costs of printing and postage (including even of this letter) been met in full by generous sponsors, so we could save core funds for our medical work. To our sponsors, and all our donors, thank you.

The need for this report became clear after Dow Chemical was appointed a sponsor of the Olympics. Dow wholly owns and is merged with Union Carbide whose neglected factory caused the 1984 gas disaster, and whose toxic wastes still poison the water of people living nearby.

Please open pages 89-90 for a short list of chemicals dumped by Union Carbide, then turn the page to look at some of the children we have treated. Among them is Rupesh, born in 1997 to parents who had both been exposed to Union Carbide's poison gases. He was nine and a half when photographed here, struggling in his mother's arms. Breast-fed till two, he had ever since drunk water that, unknown to his family was poisoned by Union Carbide's toxic wastes.

The company had evidence of the danger at least 8 years before Rupesh was born (pp. 62-3) but warned no one, denied there was a problem and did nothing to clean up the chemicals.

Aged four, Rupesh suffered a series of fits so violent they left him paralysed. A year later a study found chemicals that cause cancers and birth defects in the milk of nursing mothers, so the breast milk Rupesh drank in his first two years had likely also been contaminated.

Rupesh's short life was filled with pain. He never learned to speak and had no control over his body. His mind, as far as anyone could tell, was burned away. Weeks after this picture was taken, he died in circumstances so grim that we can't bring ourselves to talk about them.

Lowest left on page 92 is bald, web-fingered, thick-tongued Raju. He too is dead, drowned in



a monsoon ditch rushing with toxic water. Shanu's short life was all agony, her long lashes fringing a livid tumour where an eyeball used to be. She too is gone – as is Imtiyaz whose story echoed Rupesh's. There have been many many others. Their names alone could fill every line of every page of this letter.

COULD ANYTHING BE WORSE THAN WATCHING A CHILD DIE IN PAIN?

Yes. It's the unbearable knowledge that the same thing is going to happen again and again to children as yet unborn, not even conceived – and that unless we can shift the world we will not be able to prevent it.

In many areas the ground water is poisoned by chemicals which several scientific studies have traced to hazardous wastes dumped by Union Carbide in and around its factory site. In contaminated areas children are being born damaged at rates many times higher than the Indian average. Union Carbide and its owner Dow Chemical deny that they are responsible for cleaning up these chemicals and refuse to help the families whose lives have been ruined.

The company needs to change its mind and the Indian authorities need to end their neglect. Both sides must quit the game of blaming each other in public but colluding in private.

For this to happen will take a miracle.

IT'S HARD TO FIGHT MONEY & POLITICS

The Bhopal survivors were sickened when Dow Chemical was announced as an Olympic sponsor. Were these not meant to be the most 'sustainable' games ever? Did the organisers not see the obscene irony of Dow Chemical sponsoring the Paralympics and Team GB's paralympians even as children continued to be born damaged in Bhopal?

Many others did. London 2012 Sustainability Commissioner Meredith Alexander resigned in protest. Amnesty International and Greenpeace called for Dow to be dropped and the Indian Olympic Committee threatened a boycott if it were not.

Labour MP Barry Gardiner spoke for a cross-party group of MPs that included the Speaker of the Commons when he said Dow's involvement was 'a stain on the ambitions of the Olympics.'

The London Assembly said it 'caused damage to the reputation of the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games' and called on Lord Coe and LOCOG to rethink.

A *Guardian* poll found 93% wanting to drop Dow as an Olympic sponsor, and a PR industry survey reported that online coverage relating to Dow and the Olympics was 92% negative.



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An urgent plea from the Bhopal Medical Appeal

The work being done in the two clinics you help to fund in Bhopal is inspiring and demand for our services has never been greater.

Chingari has taken on more staff and extended working hours in order to treat 120 children every day. But with 500 children registered with us, there is a long waiting list for places. Our field workers estimate that a further 1,500 damaged children in Bhopal need the free, expert, loving care that only Chingari and Sambhavna give them.

The worldwide financial crisis has led to a steep increase in the costs of funding the clinics.

The 'dearness allowance' (a government figure reflecting the increase in the cost of living) which we, as a responsible employer pay our staff in 2007-8 was 6% of salary. Today it is 44%.

Drugs used to treat diabetes cost 140% more today than in 2007; inhalers almost 40% more.

Meanwhile, as with many other charities, our income from donations is down.

We have had to dip into our reserves to maintain our grants and services at the present level but we must replenish the reserves to be able to guarantee that the unique and precious work we do is not interrupted or threatened.

All our work is funded by you, our friends and supporters, and there's a simple, relatively painless way you can help.

PLEASE CONSIDER MAKING A MODEST REGULAR DONATION

(IF YOU ARE ALREADY A REGULAR DONOR, PLEASE SEE PAGE 8 FOR OTHER WAYS TO HELP)

YASHI, 5



£3 a month funds special education sessions to prepare a child for life outside the straitjacket of disability. They learn the basic skills of daily living, bathing, eating meals on their own, learning to hold spoons and cups, utensils and finally a pencil.

£5 a month will provide a free nutritious meal

every day for two malnourished children. Ishrat was a frail paper doll when she came to us, aged 10. Her father explained that they had no money even for food. Now Ishrat wins running races at national level.

ISHRAT, 13



ABDULLAH, 16



£7.50 a month pays for a child's speech therapy training. Abdullah couldn't speak. At Chingari he began to improve and learned to say 'pa'. 'Pa-pa.'. His father was so overjoyed that he came to thank the staff. And learned that his son had just eaten three bowls of rice pudding.

£10 a month covers all the costs of one child's

physiotherapy. Shyam Babu is a brave little lad who refuses to let his shaky legs prevent him from doing a paper round, walking 4 miles every day. So far he has managed to save up 1,000 rupees, equivalent to about £11.

SHYAM, 12



MINAKSHI, 9



£15 a month means that two children and their mums who otherwise would not be able to come to the children's centre can be picked up from home every day and dropped back again in a safe, comfortable minibus. Minakshi and other children from Oriya Basti rely on this service.

£20 a month would pay for the maintenance

of our 'garden of senses' which is planted with roses, jasmines and other scented flowers, and with aromatic plants to help stimulate the senses of sensory deprived children. Rupesh, until his death, was one such child.

RUPESH, 9



ZAID, 8



Other amounts. We paid £1,700 for corrective surgery to repair cricket-lover Zaid's spine, but a minor operation to free webbed fingers can cost as little as £100 and change a child's life.

If you'd like to help with a regular donation please

use the direct debit mandate at right and the enclosed reply-paid envelope.

We are grateful for every gift and as representatives of some of the poorest people on earth know very well that your support is a treasure whose value cannot be measured in money.

THE BHOPAL MEDICAL APPEAL

Direct Debit Mandate

Name _____

Address _____

Postcode _____

Telephone _____

Email _____

I wish to donate a regular sum of

£ _____

to the **Bhopal Medical Appeal**. The first payment is to start on the 1st of

Month _____ Year _____

Payments are to be taken

☐ Monthly ☐ Quarterly ☐ Annually

Please complete the Direct Debit Instruction below

BMOCT12

Instruction to your Bank or Building Society to pay by Direct Debit



Please fill in the whole form using a ball point pen and send to:
 The Bhopal Medical Appeal
 Unit 2, The Foundry, 8/9 St. George's Mews, Brighton, BN1 4EU

2 4 6 3 3 8

Name and full postal address of your Bank or Building Society

To: The Manager _____ Bank/Building Society
 Address _____
 Postcode _____

Reference

Instructions to your Bank or Building Society

Please pay Workwithus.org RE: Bhopal Medical Appeal Direct Debits from the account detailed in this Instruction subject to the safeguards assured by the Direct Debit Guarantee. In understand that this instruction may remain with Workwithus.org RE: Bhopal Medical Appeal and, if so, details will be passed electronically to my Bank/Building Society.

Name(s) of Account Holder(s)

Bank/Building Society account number

Branch Sort Code

Signature(s)

Date _____

Banks and Building Societies may not accept Direct Debit Instructions for some types of account

The Direct Debit Guarantee

- This Guarantee is offered by all Banks and Building Societies that take part in the Direct Debit Scheme. The efficiency and security of the Scheme is monitored and protected by your own Bank or Building Society.
- If the amounts to be paid or the payment dates change, Workwithus.org RE: Bhopal Medical Appeal will notify you 10 working days in advance of your account being debited or as otherwise agreed
- If an error is made by Workwithus.org RE: Bhopal Medical Appeal or your Bank or Building Society, you are guaranteed a full and immediate refund from your branch of the amount paid.
- You can cancel a Direct Debit at any time by writing your Bank or Building Society. Please also send a copy of your letter to us.



Please Gift Aid My Donation

- ☐ If you are a UK Taxpayer, ticking this box will increase the value of your gift by 25p for every £1 you give.

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Ways you can help to get this story heard

The story of the Bhopal survivors' quest for health, justice and a life of dignity has the power to unleash huge energies for compassionate change into the world. Please help make it happen.

1. SPREAD THE WORD that an online version of the *Bhopal Marathon* with sources is available at bhopalmarathon.org/cryforbhopal/index.html. Please spread this url through the social media and every other possible means. Many of the stories are so truly hard to believe that we have backed up everything we can with primary source documents, news-cuttings and photographs, many never before published. Where a story touches Union Carbide and Dow Chemical, we've preferred to tell it using their own public statements and private documents.

2. GIVE OR LEND your copy to someone else if you don't want it, or if you have finished with it.

3. PLEASE ORDER COPIES to give to friends, your local library, newspaper, TV or radio station, or to schools and universities. We will supply these at no cost, but you can also sponsor copies.

4. WRITE A LETTER TO YOUR MP. We are planning to send a copy of the *Bhopal Marathon* to every MP. If you write a letter and post or email it to us, we will include it with the report.

5. SPONSOR A COPY. We would ask you primarily to support the medical work with a regular gift (*using the direct debit form overleaf*) or a one-off donation (*using the form below*), but if in addition you would like to sponsor one or more copies of *The Bhopal Marathon* at £3 a copy, please tick the relevant box in the form, and return this page in the pre-paid envelope provided.

The printing and postage costs of the *Bhopal Marathon* are entirely funded by generous sponsors to conserve our medical funds. We kept the cost down by doing as much as possible ourselves: research, interviews, materials, photographs, writing, design and editing. It won't win any glossiness awards and some of the pictures are technically not very good, *but they are all real and in some cases are the only surviving photographs of certain events*.

Make a one-off donation right now using a card

FREEPHONE 0800 316 5577

Visit www.bhopal.org/donate. Or send a cheque payable to The Bhopal Medical Appeal.

I would like to make a gift to support the medical work of the Bhopal Medical Appeal of

☐ £5 ☐ £10 ☐ £25 ☐ £50 ☐ £100 ☐ £250 ☐ £500 ☐ £1,000 ☐ Other

☐ I'd like additionally to sponsor --- copy/ies of *The Bhopal Marathon* at £3 each.

☐ I enclose a cheque for a total of £.....

☐ Please treat this and future gifts of money as Gift Aid donations. A Gift Aid declaration increases the value of your donation at no cost to yourself by 25p for every £1. You must be a current UK taxpayer paying Income Tax or Capital Gains Tax. HMRC regulations require you to sign the form below.

Please complete this page, complete and return in the Freepost envelope provided.

To save us the cost of postage please cross out 'Freepost' and affix a stamp.

Name.....

Address.....

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Signature.....Date.....

The Bhopal Medical Appeal, Charity registered in England & Wales, No 1117526

