

**Ruchira Gupta,
Founder of Apne Aap, India**

Summary on Ruchira Gupta

In a career spanning 23 years, Ruchira Gupta has worked as a journalist, activist and policy-maker on issues related to violence against women and children. She has won an Emmy for “outstanding investigative journalism,” has founded Apne Aap, a grassroots organization of over 5,000 women and children trapped in or at risk to prostitution in India’s red-light areas and slums and has provided policy support to the Government of India, UN agencies in Nepal, Thailand, Kosovo and New York and USAID in Washington DC, Cambodia, Laos, Vietnam, Thailand and Phillipines. She has recently presented the Abolitionist Award at the House of Lords in UK.

She sits on the Steering Committee for the Planning Commission of the Government of India for the 11th Five-year Plan and on the Working group of the Ministry of Women and Children. She is on the advisory board of Asia Society and Vital Voices and the Ricky Martin Foundation as well as on the board of Coalition against Trafficking in Women (Asia-Pacific). She has testified to the Indian Parliament on amending the Indian trafficking law. Her testimony to the UN Senate had a direct role in the passage of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act, 2000 and has been honored at the White House for her work to combat trafficking.

Her book on *Confronting the Demand for Human Trafficking* is being used extensively to train Indian law-enforcement officers to confront trafficking. She has also recently developed a manual to train prosecutors to address human trafficking with UNODC.