



**Proshanti**  
A healthy living partnership

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18<sup>th</sup> April 2020

Dear Proshanti Supporters and Friends,

Greetings from Proshanti UK.

Like yourselves, we are also under pressure from the stress of the COVID-19 pandemic. Nevertheless, 'we will succeed' in overcoming the virus, as the Queen told the nation in her speech on Sunday. It is important that, as a local and global community, we look after each other by following the NHS' advice to control the virus so we can return to our normal lives.

We continue to be grateful for your support. I am writing to provide an update on our current status which - along with the ever- changing situation in Bangladesh (2144 known positive cases, 84 reported deaths, and 66 recoveries from COVID-19 as of 18<sup>th</sup> April) – has required we adjust our service accordingly, as detailed below.

I would also like to give you a brief account of Proshanti UK's services in 2019 and how we are currently working in Bangladesh. This will be provided in fuller detail when our Annual Report of 2019 is available to share with you.

#### At a glance service for 2019

| Items                                 | Service users      |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------|
| Pregnant women registered for service | 180                |
| High risk women                       | 20                 |
| Ante-natal care                       | 660                |
| Estimated Delivery Date Follow-up     | 3604               |
| Medical Test                          | 1305               |
| Health Education Sessions             | 183 (2362 Persons) |
| Delivery conducted                    | 148                |
| Normal Delivery at Hospital           | 16                 |
| <b>C-section Delivery</b>             | <b>24</b>          |
| Delivery at home                      | 108                |
| Miscarriage                           | 07                 |
| Still birth                           | 01                 |
| Abortion                              | 03                 |
| Neonatal death                        | 01                 |
| Pre-mature birth                      | 02                 |
| Post-natal care                       | 02                 |
| Clients discharged                    | 180                |
| Boys                                  | 73                 |
| Girls                                 | 77                 |

**15% C-section delivery in Proshanti compared to 31% in Bangladesh (The World Health Organization recommends a C-section rate of between 10% and 15% of all births per country).**

**Chair**  
Lilu Ahmed

**President**  
Sir Stephen O'Brien  
**Vice President**  
Revd Helen Matthews

**Address in Bangladesh**  
Adhunik (Pvt) Hospital  
Juri Moulvibazzar  
Sylhet

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No. 1137179, and is a company limited  
by guarantee in England and Wales  
Reg No. 7108914

**Income & expenses:** We have earned from various sources (from individuals and institutions) including a Gift Aid tax refund: £39,915.81 and spent £29,252.23 for services in 2019. In addition, we have loaned £10,500 to the Proshanti Juri Project in Bangladesh to buy an ambulance. A photo of the ambulance attached here.

**Why we bought the ambulance?** In 2019, an external evaluator recommended that Proshanti should work to enhance and evolve its capacity for facilitated delivery (delivery conducted in hospitals/clinics by trained health professionals) and to emphasize facilitated delivery (delivery in medical setting) in order to comply with Government protocols. Since then, our clinical staff in Juri have tried to implement this approach. However, we were finding difficulties in fully adopting this approach due to an unavailability of local transport at night-time.

Proshanti UK approached DFID Bangladesh and some donors in the UK but were unable to raise any funds for transport; instead, we have funded £10.5K as an advance loan to buy the ambulance. We are hoping to recover the cost of the ambulance in the coming Ramadan. Please donate generously towards the cost of an ambulance as much as you can. We hope that we will be able to ensure 100% facilitated deliveries from now on for our registered pregnant women who would otherwise not be able to access any medical services without Proshanti's help.

**We need £150 per month for fuel and maintenance costs and £150 per month for the driver's salary.** We would be grateful if you would consider donating to help cover these costs. This can be a one-off or monthly donation depending on your preference.

**How we are working now:** Since 25<sup>th</sup> March 2020, our staff have been working from home (as Bangladesh is in lockdown due to COVID-19) advising our registered patients over the phone on how to protect themselves from COVID as well as pregnancy related issues. They have also helped in home deliveries where the patient was at risk and not willing to go to hospital. From April, we will follow the Bangladesh Government's advice for registering new patients. Our staff are also delivering food to our client houses in this critical time.

**What is next:** Now more people are helping each other in this critical situation. Ramadan is in a weeks' time. **Please donate generously and share the attached leaflet with your friends to support Proshanti. Share the following link: <https://tinyurl.com/y8tlr4jh> if you or any of your friends would like to contribute through a monthly standing order in this difficult time.**

We wish you all safe and good health.

Best wishes



Dr AKM Momin  
On behalf of Proshanti Trustees

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