

Sonali (Dead Name - Sachin)

Is a transwoman who was forcibly married to a girl by her violent parents

- Sonali, 28, from a remote village in Western UP, always felt different from boys her age
- She loved Enjoyed makeup, wearing her mother's sandals and sarees, but faced beatings for showing effeminate qualities
- Her parents were not happy with the way she was turning out and forcibly got her married to Anju, a minor girl.
- Marriage with Anju was never consummated; Sonali confided that she is a trans woman, making consummation impossible
- Sonali's family became more violent, and when her parents' violence became unbearable, she reached out to ISF

How ISF helped Sonali

- ISF helped Sonali and Anju by supporting them to secure employment in Noida, away from their village, as live-in domestic helpers
- They rented a flat together, started earning a livelihood, and participated in counselling sessions organised by ISF to facilitate their separation
- ISF's support enabled them to initiate divorce and start new paths, a challenging task in their village context
- They each found new partners and became good friends, supporting each other
- Sonali, is now living as a transwoman, & contemplating surgery in the future