Your support to the influencers journey is ensuring women and girls’ freedom from violence and discrimination, access to legal justice, grassroots leadership, rights and entitlements and freedom from economic dependency. This issue brings you updates from ANANDI, Milaan and Sanjog’s journey of initiating and facilitating gender sensitive dialogues at both, global and national level. Also, block your calendars for the much-awaited Mann Deshi Foundation Mahotsav in Mumbai this January!

Collective Conversations
Representatives from ANANDI were invited to be a part of the Asia-Pacific Ministerial Conference organised by UN Women on the Beijing +25 Review held in Bangkok from 27th to 29th November. The Beijing +25 review marks the 25th anniversary of the adoption of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action with the intent of bringing together key stakeholders from across Asia-Pacific region to identify key strategic actions and areas required to overcome barriers to empowerment of women. The conference aimed to harness synergies with the SDG 2030 Agenda to the achievement of key international commitments on gender equality. It involved insightful discussions on topics such as importance of social dialogue, eradication of poverty in improving gender-responsive national statistical systems. Furthermore, integration of a gender perspective into environmental conservation conversations and work was suggested, to understand the increased vulnerability and impact on female populations.

Grassroots Leadership
We are proud to share that Dhirendra Pratap Singh, CEO, Milaan Foundation was selected as one of 30 fellows by The Gratitude Network (a Bay Area based leadership development organisation) for the 2020 cohort of changemakers working to support children and youth around the globe. The selection process involved extensive screening of 1200 applicants, from which 300 were selected for the second-round of whom only 10% were finally chosen. The fellowship will offer a 12-month leadership development program that would include coaching and advice from experts, regular interactions with their cohort members from more than 10 countries through a four-day leadership summit.

Survivors rescued by Sanjog along with nearly 2,500 human-trafficking survivors from across eight states came together to launch India’s first ever forum of, for and by survivors- Indian Leadership Forum Against Trafficking (ILFAT) on 19th November 2019. The premise for the formation of the forum is to end trafficking in all its forms by not just spreading awareness but also bringing about policy formulation. ILFAT’s initial consultative meetings aided in identification of victim compensation, mental health aid, punishment to the perpetrator and breaking the stigma faced by survivors along with reintegration into the society as areas requiring immediate attention. Currently, NGOs and ILFAT are vigorously lobbying for the re-introduction and passing of Trafficking of Persons (Prevention, Protection and Rehabilitation) Bill in Parliament. NITI Aayog has requested for ILFAT’s inputs for the new draft of the Bill. Watch the video to know more about ILFAT.

Get a glimpse of Mhaswad in Mumbai between 9th to 12th January where Mann Deshi Foundation brings treasures from farmers’ products, music, art and culture in their much awaited yearly Mahotsav. Hope to see you there!