

P O R T R A I T S O F
PROMISE

ISSUE 65

**at-risk
to thriving**

orphan'spromise

A New World Awaits



These are the stories.

These are the souls.

These are the portraits of
the lives we're changing.

When you read the newspaper, a cookbook, or your favorite novel, chances are you don't have to think twice about the words you're looking at. But for Sara, being confident in her ability to read felt like a distant dream. See how you are unlocking a whole new world for this young teen in Israel.

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GROWING UP IN THE SHADOWS

Sara is 18 years old. She's smart, kind, and artistic. She loves photography and drawing. She also has big dreams of being an engineer. She lives in an area outside of Jerusalem with her parents and five siblings.

A few years ago, her dad was seriously injured in a car accident. His severe injuries make it impossible for him to work full time. Sara and her family live in poverty and struggle to keep food on the table. Her family belongs to a minority group known as the Domari people, which means they face severe discrimination and racism.

WHAT IS DOMARI COMMUNITY?

People who live in the Domari community are also known as Gypsies. When Gypsies migrated out of India, some headed north and became known as Romani people. Others settled in the Middle East and became the Domari community. Although they have assimilated into the Arab culture, there are deeply ingrained cultural and societal differences.

Sara and her community face ongoing discrimination from the dominate ethnic groups. It's extremely difficult for Dom families to break the cycle of poverty because of economic and social discrimination.

Dom kids are often marginalized in schools. Parents frequently need help making a living, so many children are forced to drop out of school to work or beg in the streets. This has long-term effects on a child's ability to find sustainable work as an adult.

Research shows that “when low literacy levels are prevalent among children, the likelihood that their literacy level will develop later in life is smaller.”¹

But that story is changing because of compassionate people like you.



ONE ARTICLE SAYS THAT, IN ISRAEL, THE DOMARI PEOPLE TRY TO BLEND IN—SO MUCH SO THAT MANY PEOPLE DON'T EVEN KNOW THEY EXIST. IT ALSO EXPLAINS HOW “THE ISRAELIS USUALLY VIEW THEM AS ARABS, AND THE ARABS CONSIDER THEM OUTCASTS.”²

THE DOMARI SOCIETY OF GYPSIES

The Domari Society of Gypsies is our on-the-ground partner in Sara’s community. While it was not culturally prioritized, one Dom woman named Amoun understood the critical importance of education. Amoun dropped out of school at the age of 12, but then she went back and was able to go to college. She graduated and started The Domari Society in 1999 to help students stay in school and empower people in her community to break the cycle of poverty through education.

At The Domari Society, children can receive tutoring after school. Many Dom kids are overlooked by teachers in the government school program and fall behind, so having support from tutors is essential. The program is also helping parents better understand the value of education. This work is slow but steady, as the adults in the community are seeing that education makes a difference in their children’s lives.

UNLOCKING A NEW FUTURE

Sara was overjoyed to start coming to the after-school program at The Domari Society. Orphan’s Promise partners make it possible for her to get the help she needs to stay in school. Through the program, her family receives aid and emergency food assistance.

Sara is working hard to become fluent in English, and she wants to go on to study engineering in college. Sometimes, the circumstances make it very difficult for kids to have a consistent education, as teachers often go on strike. Recently, the teachers in Sara’s school were on strike for three months, so the school was closed. When the students returned, they didn’t receive any additional help to catch up on what they had missed during that time. However, during those three months, Sara came every single day to the Domari center for tutoring so she could stay on track with her classes. That safety net made it possible for her to not fall behind.

Having access to educational opportunities is unlocking a whole new world for Sara. This young teen will have the opportunity to get a college degree, which will help her get higher-paying jobs when she graduates. English and math might seem like boring subjects to some students, but for someone like Sara they are the key to a different life.

While many Dom kids are in a precarious environment that encourages them to drop out of school and get married extremely young, Sara won't be in that position. She is being equipped with a quality education that gives her the skills to build her own future.

THE DOMARI PEOPLE (ALSO KNOWN AS GYPSIES) FACE DISCRIMINATION AND MARGINALIZATION. THIS DISCRIMINATION LEADS TO MANY DOM CHILDREN DROPPING OUT OF SCHOOL. THIRTY-EIGHT PERCENT OF THE CHILDREN IN THE COMMUNITY CANNOT READ OR WRITE.³



INCREASE YOUR *generosity*

The most effective way to give and maximize your gift is to give a recurring monthly gift. If you'd like to become a monthly partner with Orphan's Promise, please check out the information below. We'll count on you to ensure our commitment to these children is fulfilled!

IF YOU'D LIKE TO GIVE A SPECIAL GIFT TO ORPHAN'S PROMISE, THERE ARE FOUR EASY WAYS YOU CAN GIVE:



OrphansPromise.org/Promise



Text PROMISE to 71777



Call 1-800-818-4016



Mail a check made out to Orphan's Promise to:
Orphan's Promise
977 Centerville Turnpike
Virginia Beach, VA 23463

Thanks for your generosity.

We look forward to making a difference together. 

THANK YOU!

Sara expressed gratefully, “Thank you for changing my life and making it easier for me. And thank you for bringing me closer to my dreams.”

We couldn't agree more! You are making it possible for education to be a part of Sara's everyday life—just as it should be. Thank you for being part of this life-changing work.

PRAYER POINTS

Pray for peace and an end to the fighting between Israel and Palestine. Pray that world leaders would have wisdom.

Pray for Sara to stay motivated as she pursues her goals and have the provision she needs to continue her education.

Pray for Sara's family, their salvation, and opportunities for them to find steady work.

Pray for Sara's teachers as they serve in the Dom community. Also, pray for parents to know the value of education.

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THANK YOU FOR CHANGING MY LIFE AND MAKING IT EASIER FOR ME. AND THANK YOU FOR BRINGING ME CLOSER TO MY DREAMS. – SARA

1. "Literacy Rate by State," Wisevoter, accessed March 15, 2024, <https://wisevoter.com/state-rankings/literacy-rate-by-state/#:~:text=The%20National%20Center%20for%20Education,and%20make%20low%2Dlevel%20inferences.>
 2. "Domari Romani in Israel," Joshua Project, accessed March 15, 2024, https://joshuaproject.net/people_groups/11597/IS.
 3. "What We Do," Domari Society of Gypsies in Jerusalem, accessed March 15, 2024, <https://www.domarisociety.com/welcome>.



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Orphan's Promise, a children's ministry of The Christian Broadcasting Network, Inc., serves orphans and other vulnerable children around the world, taking them from at-risk to thriving through the transforming power of God's love. CBN is a non-profit 501(c)(3) charitable organization and your contributions to our ministry may be tax-deductible.