

## Magid: The Passover Story Cont.

Contributed by [American Jewish World Service](#)

Source:

### INDIA

Sunita Jaiswal was 15 when she first got married and 17 when she gave birth to her first child. Her husband drank heavily and beat her. Her parents encouraged her to be patient—and she had no choice because she couldn't support her children. But she soon found a way to change her story. She discovered Azad Fouad, an AJWS grantee that trains low-income women to become professional drivers. He taught her to drive and gave her lessons in self-defense and human rights. With their support, she filed for divorce and reported her husband to the police.

Today Sunita works as a private chauffeur and is able to support herself and her children and younger siblings in school. She also made a new friend who later chose, of her own will, to marry. Her new husband supports her career. "This is what I liked the most about him," Sunita says. "There are very few men who actually support us and help us go forward in life."

### DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO

Julienne Lusenge was a radio broadcaster in the late '90s at the beginning of Congo's brutal civil war. When women from around the country began calling in to her radio show describing horrific violence and rape, she decided it had to stop. Julienne founded an organization called Female Solidarity for Peace and Development (SOFEPADI) and started training girls and women to stand up to their attackers. She provided trauma counseling to survivors and helped dispel stigma that left so many survivors isolated and alone. Today, Julienne and SOFEPADI are defending thousands of women in Congolese courts and winning hundreds of cases—bringing hope that rule of law and justice can return to the country.

