

PRESS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

BRITISH BAND RELEASE TRIBUTE ANTHEM TO INDIA'S DAUGHTER

British alternative folk band The Portraits are releasing a song in tribute to India's Daughter and the mass movement for equal rights for women in India.

The newly written song, entitled simply "India's Daughter", is now available as a free download from the band's website www.theportraitsmusic.com/downloads. It will be linked to a campaign by Human Rights organisation Avaaz to raise 1.2 million signatures for an online petition aimed at the Indian government, pressing them to change legislation and bring about a shift in attitudes through education.

The Portraits' songwriter Jeremy Millington explains how his own family's historical links with India led to his desire to express his own devastation at the story of India's Daughter.

"My heavily pregnant and recently widowed grandmother had to flee from Burma during the Japanese invasion of 1942," explains Jeremy, "and sought refuge for some months in Nainital, where my mother was born. They were both lucky to have survived, and although it was a very long time ago, I've always felt uniquely indebted to India for looking after them both, without which I'd not be here. So I'm particularly moved by India's fight to ensure that its own women are truly valued."

The Portraits' music is heavily influenced by stories and people they've encountered during travels in Asia, and despite travelling and helping disadvantaged children in countries such as Burma, and subsequently writing about this in their music, they've yet to visit India.

"I cannot tell you how many years I've been longing to come to India," says Jeremy's wife and co-writer Lorraine, "and with the strong movement for equality that we so identify with, the time is getting closer. As the parents of a young daughter ourselves, we're right behind those demonstrating for change for women. Our song is written from their perspective, but also from that of the young victim's family - I cannot imagine what they have gone through. We wanted to release the song as a free download so that people everywhere, no matter what their background, could share it - it is our anthem for the millions of good people in India wanting to make their beautiful country a better place."

www.theportraitsmusic.com
www.facebook.com/theportraitsmusic

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Notes to editor

The Portraits' were formed in 2005 by Lorraine and Bristolian pianist Jeremy Millington. In 2010 their penchant for writing politically charged songs was highlighted by the release of their song 'Liberty' for Burma's democracy icon Aung San Suu Kyi, which was presented to her just after her release from house arrest in 2010, and which led to an invitation to play the Glastonbury Festival in 2011. The band were crowned Best International Artist 2011 by respected U.S. station Radio Crystal Blue, and their new album, 'Counterbalance', was released on CD and download formats on 5th November, 2012.

Hi resolution photos are available from <https://www.dropbox.com/sh/6ao5y799jnz90ti/K8XHjsSmGM> or upon request.

"India's Daughter" can be downloaded for free from <http://www.theportraitsmusic.com/downloads>

Avaaz campaign to end India's war on women: https://secure.avaaz.org/en/end_indias_war_on_women/?r=act