



STOP VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN!

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INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR THE ELIMINATION OF VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

Violence against women and girls remains one of the most grievous human rights violations in the world. However, under-reporting these crimes is one of the biggest challenges for organizations worldwide to eliminate gender-based violence. During 2020, the International Day for Eliminating Violence against Women was based on the theme of "**Orange the World: Fund, Respond, Prevent, and Collect!**" Followed by 16 days of activism which started on November 25 and ended on December 10, 2020, the International Human Rights Day.

The National Commission for Women marked the International Day for Elimination of Violence against Women with a three-day deliberation titled "India Against Abuse on Women," where the Commission brought together eminent scholars from Government, law enforcement agencies, NGOs, professionals, and activists to have a comprehensive and meaningful conversation on attitudes, perceptions, and ways to curb abuse against women and girls.

LAW REVIEW CONSULTATION CYBERCRIME AGAINST WOMEN – DO INDECENT REPRESENTATION OF WOMEN'S ACT, IT ACT, AND OTHER PREVAILING LAWS SUFFICE

Cyber Crimes against Women have a detrimental effect on women's well-being, psychological and mental health, and dignity. The constant fear of safety and loss of reputation adversely affects every aspect of their life. Furthermore, as technology advances, the forms, type, and way cybercrimes are bound to change. As a result, current laws must be updated to stay relevant and helpful to cybercrime victims to keep women safe from cybercrime.

The National Commission for Women held a series of Law Review Consultations from 21st August to 2nd December 2020 on "Cyber Crime against Women – Do Indecent Representation of Women's Act; It Act and Other Prevailing Laws Suffice" to strengthen women's rights the available redressal mechanisms for them to fight cybercrime.

The consultation was held to examine and discuss the establishment of regulatory instruments, statutes, suggestions, guidelines, and other measures to protect women's privacy and related interests in cyberspace. These instruments form a field of law and policy that has attained considerable maturity, spread, and normative importance over the decades. Through this consultation, the Commission sought views, suggestions, and opinions of stakeholders from Northern, Southern, Eastern, Western, and Northeastern regions of India to formulate consolidated recommendations for possible amendments in the existing law.



Nikita Barooah



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Dr. Yumnam Singh



Swikar Lama

INDIA AGAINST ABUSE ON WOMEN

A gender unequal society is where women are denied their rights and are often subjected to physical and sexual violence by their partner. The more gender unequal a society is, the more likely they face discrimination and abuse in their daily lives. Discriminatory societal norms lead to gender-based violence where the primary victims are primarily women. In this backdrop, the Commission organized an 18-hour virtual discussion, spread over three days, titled "India Against Abuse on Women and Girls", from 25th to 27th November, 2020, where experts discussed various issues and challenges faced by women and girls. The Commission brought together eminent scholars from Government, law enforcement agencies, NGOs, professionals, and activists to have a comprehensive and meaningful conversation on attitudes, perceptions, and ways to curb abuse against women and girls.



CONVERSATION AROUND SEXUAL HARASSMENT & ENDING STIGMA AROUND MENTAL HEALTH

A large segment of women has experienced physical or sexual violence from an intimate partner in their lifetime. If a person has a mental illness, the suffering becomes two-fold. To address the issues of victims of sexual harassment and women stigmatized because of mental health issues, the Commission conducted two sessions, namely, 'The Conversation around Sexual Harassment' and 'Let's end the stigma around mental health.' Through its discussion, the Commission attempted to address the preconceptions and biases that women encounter at various stages of their lives, robbing them of the chances to live a dignified existence.

HOW ONLINE ABUSE OF WOMEN HAS SPIRALED OUT OF CONTROL

Cybercrime against women is advancing much quicker, which creates a multitude of problems because as cyberspace expands, it creates more open areas for cybercriminals to penetrate. The problem lies in the modus operandi and the persistence of cybercriminals. The transcendental jurisdiction of the Internet causes a major threat to society in the form of cybercrime. The Commission held a session on 'How Online Abuse of Women Has Spiraled out of Control' to check the efficacy of the mechanism, including the responsibility of social media platforms in controlling the cyber abuse against women.





DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN - IT'S A MEN'S ISSUE

Every government and non-government statistics indicate that domestic violence being one of the prominent violence faced by women. The public concern about violence outside the home, which results in advice to women about how they should dress and stay off public spaces, obfuscates the enormity of intimate terrorism. Accounts of survivors reveal how other women in the family watch helplessly. Because of its position inside the house and the perpetrator, a close family, this abuse goes unreported primarily. The Commission, therefore, held a session on 'Domestic Violence against women -- it's a men's issue.'

Highlights of Hon'ble Chairperson's Engagements

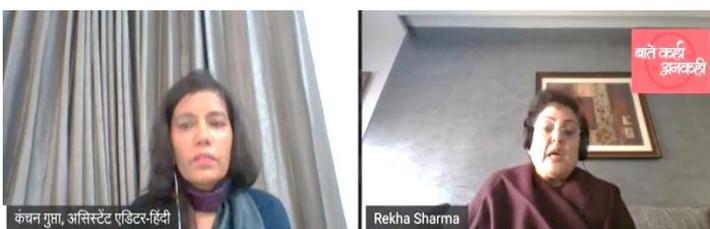


NCW Chairperson participated in a Webinar on the theme "SASHAKT NAARI, SASHAKT BHARAT", organized by The Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology on November 4, 2020.

Chairperson participated in the National Virtual Conference on "Empowerment of Tribal Women through Entrepreneurship & Skill Development", organized by Indian Institute of Public Administration in partnership with NCW and Ministry of Tribal Affairs on November 5, 2020.



Chairperson participated in a webinar organized by Parliamentary Research & Training Institute for Democracies, Lok Sabha Secretariat on the topic 'Behavioural & Administrative Changes Needed to Tackle Harassment of Women at Workplace' on November 19, 2020.



Hon'ble Chairperson Rekha Sharma participated as a Panelist in Talk Show 'Baate Kahi Ankahee' organized by Momspresso Hindi on December 17, 2020.

Chairperson Rekha Sharma participated in a special edition of Shakti talks on the topic "Empowering Women from Classroom to Boardroom" organized by university of petroleum and energy studies, Dehradun on December 19,2020



Chairperson Rekha Sharma inaugurated an automatic sanitary napkin vending & disposal machine at office.

The initiative aims at ensuring menstrual health & hygiene of women on December 23,2020.

Member’s Engagements: Activities Undertaken by NCW

MAHILA JAN SUNWAI

National Commission for Women successfully held virtual Mahila Jan Sunwai on 09.11.2020 at NCW Southeast Delhi. The Commission took up a total of 29 cases for One Day Jan Sunwai. The Mahila Jan Sunwai has taken place with the coordination of the Police Officials in this regard. The parties were heard during the Mahila Jan Sunwai, and the matters were also taken up with the police officials for speedy remedial action.

Total 29 cases were taken up by the Commission in which 3 cases were closed based on compromise between the parties, 4 cases are closed based on being sub judice, 3 cases are forwarded for counseling, 4 cases are closed as the complainants did not want further action and 15 other cases police had sought time to file the action Taken reports in the matter. Thereafter, the police have yet to send action taken reports in more matters.

S No	Action taken	No of Cases
1.	Cases closed based on a compromise between the parties.	3
2.	Cases closed as the matter has now become sub-juiced	4
3.	Cases closed and forwarded to DLSA	0
4.	Cases closed and forwarded for counseling	3

5.	Directions are given of police authorities for appropriate action and submit ATRs in a time-bound manner	15
6.	Cases closed based on dismissal in default as per Order 9, Rule 2 & 3 of the Civil Procedure Code	0
7.	Cases closed as the complainant does not want further action	4
Total		29

Visits to Different States to monitor complaints concerning deprivation of Women’s rights & non-implementation of laws



**Visit of Mangalore, Karnataka
19/12/2020**

Smt. Shyamala S Kundar, Member, National Commission for Women Visited One Stop Centre at Lady Goshan Hospital, Mangaluru. She interacted with Doctors, Officials of Sakhi Centre, and Deputy Director of Women & Child Development Dept & Asha Karyakartas. Also reviewed the facilities, arrangements & amenities provided at the hospital.

**Visit to Women & Child Development office & Police Officer at Mangalore, Karnataka
19/12/2020**

Smt. Shyamala S Kundar, Member, National Commission for Women, met with Senior Officials from Women & Child Development Dept and Police Officials at Mangalore. Discussed Cyber Crime, Awareness Programs, and Action Plans soon.

**Visit of Kodagu District, Karnataka
21/12/2020**

She had a meeting with Officials from the Women Child Department, Sakhi One Stop Centre, Police & Labour Departments of Kodagu District at reviewed the actions were taken regarding the welfare of Pregnant Women during Lockdown, Welfare of Women & Migrant Labors at Construction Sites, Utilization of Fund.

Visit to Udupi District, Karnataka 21/12/2020

Smt. Shyamala S Kundar, Member, NCW, has met with Officials from Self Help Group, Sakhi One Stop Centre, Police & Labour Departments of Udupi District. According to their experience, this activity was sustainable and carried limited risk at the market. The block SGSY committee generally respected this traditional wisdom of the swarozgaris. Therefore, it was rational to explore and build further potential to enhance the productivity and sustainability of this activity.

Visit to One Stop Centre, Dehradun, Uttarakhand 22.12.2020

Member, NCW Dr. Rajul L. Desai Conducted meetings with officers of the Women and Child Development Department and discussion focused on women's rights and various other issues relating to the security of women.

Implementation of State Govt. and Central Government policies also discussed along with unique initiative taken by Women and Child Development Department. Dehradun, Uttarakhand.

She had an Interaction with Doctors, Officials of Sakhi Centre, Deputy Director of Women & Child Development Dept.; also reviewed facilities, arrangements & amenities provided at OSC, Dehradun.

Visit to Hon'ble Governor Office, Dehradun, Uttarakhand 23.12.2020

Member, NCW Dr. Rajul L. Desai met with Hon'ble Governor of Uttarakhand Smt. Baby Rai Mourya to discussed issues related to women's safety and their empowerment. She also discussed health initiatives of State Government for women and implementation of the Central Government women's welfare scheme.

Visit of SP Office at Udupi, Karnataka 24/12/2020

Smt. Shyamala S Kundar, Member, NCW met with the Superintendent of Police to discuss the Pending cases of the National Commission for Women. Reviewed complaints on Domestic Violence, Women Harassment, Cyber Crime at SP Office Udupi. N. Vishnuvardhan IPS (SP Udupi), Smt Amrithakala (Lawyer Dist Legal Cell), Jai Shankar (DSP) & other Officials were present.

Visit to Chikmangalur District, Karnataka 24/12/2020

Smt. Shyamala S Kundar, Member, NCW, has met with Officials from the Women Child Department, Sakhi One Stop Centre, Police & Labour Departments of Chikamangalur District, where she suggested creating more awareness concerning One Stop Centre-Sakhi and woman helpline number 181. She also told to provide information about Labour laws in India for the women laborers working at estates. She opined that the Stree Shakthi Bhavana should provide training for self-employment and organize other Stree shakti activities and programs and stressed the need to provide financial aid to self-help woman groups. Seventy-eight cases under the Domestic Violence Act were registered in Chikkamagalur, out of which 13 cases were referred to Court. And, about 27 cases came to be closed through counselling provided by CDPO, and 25 cases remain pending, to which Hon'ble Member advised to complete as many cases as possible through counselling itself.



Visit to Universities, Haridwar, Uttarakhand 24.12.2020

National Commission for Women has taken the national initiative to ensure a well-placed Internal Committee in all Universities and Colleges across India. Dr. Rajul L. Desai, Member, NCW met with Members of the Internal Committee of Sexual Harassment for Women at workplace at Sanskrit Mahavidyala, Patamjali University at

Highlights of the Visit to DGP Office, Dehradun, Uttarakhand 23.12.2020

Dr. Rajul L. Desai, Member, NCW, met with DGP Uttarakhand & SSP Udham Singh Nagar, Dehradun, and other Mahila Police Officers and discussed the condition of women and the status of women in the state of Uttarakhand in India. She also discussed with DGP women sexual harassment at the workplace and Internal Committees' functioning and proper work method. She apprised Director General of Police Uttarakhand regarding the pending complaint prayer letters sent by the Hon'ble Commission.



Visit to Universities, Dehradun, Uttarakhand 23.12.2020

NCW believes that a safe and healthy environment for women students and employees on Higher Educational Institutions (HEIs) campuses is a necessary precondition to quality education and research.

The HEIs can play a significant role in ensuring women's safety and providing a healthy environment by putting in place fool proof mechanisms and impregnable safety standards. The key lies in institutionalizing the best practices and standard operating procedures to deal with women-related issues on the campuses substantively. For this purpose, Dr. Rajul L. Desai, Member, NCW conducted meeting with Internal Committee Members of various Universities at Dehradun, Uttarakhand.

Extension of Quiz on "Gender Sensitization and Legal Awareness Program" with MyGov till 31st January 2021

The Commission launched an Open 'Gender Sensitization and Legal Awareness Quiz' through MyGov Portal on 14th November 2020. Initially, the duration of the Quiz was from 14th November to 31st December 2020. Now the Quiz duration has been further extended till 31st January 2021 as a good number of 42,099 participants have been recorded on 29th December 2020.

The program aims to teach equality, inclusivity, and diversity among adolescent boys and girls, essential for building a healthy society. Moreover, knowledge of laws relating to women and gender sensitization is crucial for balanced development of young minds; it will also help students build correct values, self-discipline, and national spirit.

Non-Resident Indian related issues Cell (NRI)

Month	Complaints received	Complaints Closed (Old + New)
November, 2020	36	11
December, 2020	49	15

Psychiatric Home and Custodial Homes Reform Cell

As part of its statutory mandate, the Commission has been conducting surveys/inspections of places where women are housed. However, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, physical inspections were interrupted, and the Commission continued to analyse the information received in prescribed proforma from Psychiatric Homes in the Government sector. The Commission has interpreted information and made recommendations for Lumbini Park Mental Hospital, Kolkata, West Bengal, and Psychiatric Diseases Hospital GMC, Jammu.

The Commission has received Action Taken Reports (ATR) from Psychiatric Homes on the recommendations made by the Commission. Action Taken Reports received from State Mental Health Institute, Dehradun, Uttarakhand, and RINPAS, Ranchi, Jharkhand were scrutinized. Accordingly, inputs/ suggestions were communicated to the concerned authorities for necessary action.

The information received in the prescribed proforma from 370 One Stop Centres were scrutinized to review their functioning and assess their ability to protect the rights and dignity of women residing therein. Reminders were sent to the remaining One Stop Centres to furnish information in the proforma.

**Status of Complaints Received in the C&I Cell during
November, 2020**

Complaints Received	Complaints Closed (Old + New)
2884	733

Women Safety Cell

The National Commission for Women, in collaboration with the Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS) and Delhi Police, has been implementing Violence Free Home: A Woman's Right pilot project in Delhi and 7 States (namely Bihar, Assam, Meghalaya, Punjab, Madhya Pradesh, Odisha, and Tamil Nadu) to help women survivors of violence. The Memorandum of Understanding between the National Commission for Women, Tata Institute of Social Sciences, and Delhi Police has been extended to continue the pilot project until 31st March 2021.



National Commission for Women



Stay protected from COVID 19



Wash your hands



Wear a mask



6 ft



Maintain social distancing



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