

National Commission for Women

Press Note

Consultation with women aggrieved on account of various issues relating to NRI marriages and the representatives of the Ministries/Departments concerned with the subject.

27th March 2018, New Delhi: The National Commission for Women organized a Consultation Meeting to discuss issues relating to NRI marriages as revealed from the complaints/representations received by the commission from aggrieved women with the representatives of the Ministries/Departments concerned at 1100 hrs on 27th March, 2018.

The said meeting was chaired by Ms. Rekha Sharma, Chairperson of National Commission for Women. The main issues that were discussed are as follows:

- i) Issues relating to impounding/revocation of the passports/issuance of Look out Circular, etc. in cases where the requirements for the same had been found to have been fulfilled.
- ii) Issues relating to the processes concerning services of judicial document/summons/warrants/execution of decrees, etc. in respect of cases where requests have been made to the Ministries/Department concerned.

The senior officials representing the Ministry of External Affairs, the Ministry of Home Affairs and the Ministry of Law and Justice also attended the meeting.

Such initiative was taken by the Commission as a number of issues have been observed by it on the basis of complaints received by its NRI Cell, which has been founded in 2009. Some of the very common problems relating to the issue of NRI marriages are non-appearance by the accused husbands in the court proceedings in India, challenge in service of the summon/warrants to them in foreign country and execution of Indian Court decrees regarding divorce, maintenance, child custody, etc. While dealing with the complaints of aggrieved women, it has been observed by the commission that there were numerous practical challenges for the women in seeking redressal from the existing provisions in the legal and judicial system of the country. Therefore, an urgent need has been felt by the commission to bring these issues in the notice of concerned Ministries and Departments. Further to which this meeting has been envisaged by the commission with objective of bringing the aggrieved women and the important stakeholders at one platform.

As part of their representation the aggrieved women and their family members shared as to how ex-parte divorce decrees, ordered by the foreign court, obstruct their journey to justice. The other issues which were highlighted by them were challenges in impounding of passport of their accused husbands, issuance of Look out Circular and the service of summon/warrants against them. In response to the issues raised by the aggrieved women, the representatives from the Ministries made them aware of various services by the government of India meant for their facilitation like NGO's empaneled by Ministry of External Affairs working for women aggrieved

of NRI marriages and “Madad” portal, online platform for registration of consular grievances with the Government of India.

The aggrieved women were assured by the representatives of the Ministries of their sincere efforts toward evolving viable solutions to the legal complexities involved in this issue. The Commission also noted down the measures which could be taken by it to bring change in the situation of the women.